

Bus cooperative refuses final compromise offer

Transport Ministry warns Egged against sabotaging soldier plan

Jerusalem Post Staff
The Ministry of Transport warned the Egged bus cooperative yesterday against trying to sabotage the plan for soldiers to ride free of charge on interurban lines. An administrative order forcing the cooperative to carry soldiers takes effect tomorrow after its publication today in Reshumot, the Government Gazette.

Egged yesterday refused the Ministry's final compromise offer, suggested to get the bus cooperative to comply voluntarily with the plan. Under this compromise, Egged was to give soldiers full free service on four main lines, while it was to supply partial service on other lines during off-peak hours: that is, between 8.30 a.m. and 2 p.m. and from 6.30 p.m. till the end of the day's run.

In two weeks, several more lines

were to be added to the full-service programme, while the full programme was to be implemented by July 1. This compromise was offered to allow Egged to evaluate whether the Ministry's offer of paying 80 per cent of regular fares in the form of a 12.5m. monthly advance was acceptable or not.

In a dramatic posture, Ministry spokesman Yehiel Amital excused himself from a press conference at Beit Agron at 5.50 p.m. "I'm going to phone the office to see whether a reply from Egged has been received," he said. Ten minutes later, he returned to announce, "Egged has telephoned to say that it refuses the Ministry's final offer."

According to the administrative order, Egged must carry free of charge all members of the regular army and soldiers on compulsory military service, but not soldiers doing their reserve duty. The bus

cooperative may not refuse to transport a soldier as long as there is room on a bus. On the other hand, the privilege of soldiers to proceed to the head of a queue of waiting passengers has been abrogated.

The order applies only to interurban buses designated with three-digit numbers. It does not apply to lines running south of Mikpa Ramon and the Arava Junction.

Transport Ministry director-general Elhan Shilo resorted to vagueness and to quoting the law when asked what the Ministry would do if Egged failed to obey the order. "Any sabotaging of service will mean a breach of the terms of Egged's concession," he said. "Refusal to carry a soldier is like the refusal to carry any other passenger. We can take legal steps either against the cooperative or against individual drivers. We have sanctions, but at the same time we bank on the civic responsibility and maturity of Egged," he said.

Mr. Shilo said that he thought offering Egged 80 per cent of the full fare was very fair and that Defence Ministry economists had thought paying 57 per cent would be adequate. He mentioned the precedent of the railways, which for years have been carrying soldiers free under an arrangement with the army. He also made the point that with passenger loads dropping in recent years, the army deal might actually be a windfall for Egged. "Getting soldiers to use the buses during three years of compulsory service trains them to remain loyal to the cooperative in later civilian life," he said.

Mr. Shilo stressed that the offer of paying Egged 12.5m. a month was temporary and that the final payment would be adjusted to more accurate tabulations of actual bus use by soldiers. "I'm astounded at Egged's refusal of all our offers, and I do not even mention the moral aspects of the matter," he concluded.

Egged's secretariat yesterday elected a three-man committee to study the legal aspects of the problem, which might include going to the High Court of Justice.

Egged officials warned the Ministry of Transport it could not be ready on such short notice to carry the greater number of passengers. They emphasized they would need more buses, which were not available, and that a 12.5m. monthly advance would be closer to reality than the 12.5m. offered.

Yosef Harari of the Egged secretariat told journalists Egged would obey the injunction if it lost the legal battle. But he warned that he would ensure, with the regular traveller suffering hardship, "All this because of the personal prestige of the Minister of Transport, Gad Ya'acobi, who announced something without checking to see whether it could be carried out in time," he said.



Against a backdrop of Israel flag, Moshe Dayan releases a pigeon at the Israel Solidarity march in London yesterday. Dayan released 12 birds, one for each of the Tribes of Israel, as an expression of hope for peace between nations and people. (AP radiophoto)

Salute to Israel in London and Paris

By MARK SEGAL
Jerusalem Post Correspondent
LONDON — The biggest Jewish gathering ever held in Britain took place yesterday in solidarity with Israel.

The cavernous Earls Court Hall rang to thunderous applause as Moshe Dayan told 20,000 people at the "Salute to Israel" rally that this mass demonstration of support was an act of faith with Israel's right for survival. The President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, Lord Fisher, asked Dayan to take a message back that the 10,000 Jews of Britain "are united with the Jews of Israel and this unity is now and for evermore."

The rally followed a parade of 4,000 youths through the streets of London, waving Israeli flags, riding on floats and singing Hebrew songs. As it started, Dayan released 12 pigeons, one for each tribe of Israel, as an expression of hope for peace.

Dayan observed that the birds were not the white doves traditionally associated with peace gestures. It was explained to him that white doves could not be relied upon to take flight.

An alyps float led off the parade, while in the hall Dayan evoked rapturous applause when he urged the young people, "Come to Israel." It was one huge outpouring of

Jewish emotion, which found its highlight in the rapturous standing ovations accorded Dayan. One scout file broke out after a Herut member shouted through a loud hailer, "We demand the right to settle in all parts of Eretz Yisrael." Security men moved in and fighting broke out but quickly subsided.

A small demonstration of Palestinian Arabs and Matzpen members protested "Zionist oppression in Palestine" and distributed leaflets mocking Dayan as "the half blind leading the blind." Young Jews roughed them up and threw them out.

Jack Maurice adds:
In Paris, some 50,000 French Jews yesterday demonstrated their support for Israel by attending a special "fair" at which popular entertainers and choirs sang, politicians lectured, and organizations sponsored booths.

The "12 Hours for Israel" fair was organized by the French UJA and its central welfare fund, the FSJU. It reportedly was the largest public demonstration of support for Israel ever held in France during peace time.

Among those who entertained in the city's fair grounds were singers Enrico Macias and Rika Zarai. Among the politicians was former French Premier Pierre Mendès-France.

'Israel's firm stand on Golan paid off'

By DAVID LANDAU
Jerusalem Post Diplomatic Correspondent
Taking its cue from Foreign Minister Allon, the Cabinet yesterday gave itself a pat on the back following the Security Council's extension of the UNDOF mandate with no political "strings" attached.

Allon reported — and the other ministers apparently concurred — that Israel's firm stance opposing any political "linkage" to the renewal had paid off, and the Syrians had backed down from any demands they may have been planning to make.

The Security Council extended the mandate on Friday for a further six months.

Allon recalled the official message he had received from UN Secretary-General Waldheim on Thursday, transmitted by UN Coordinator, Gen. Ennio Sillanvuo, announcing Syria's agreement to the renewal "with no political strings attached."

Israel's own agreement to the renewal had been conditional upon the absence of political "linkage."

— to the Palestinian problem or "extraneous," that Israel considered "extraneous."

Allon indicated that Israel would ignore the letter which Dr. Waldheim is understood to have written to Syrian President Assad. In his letter Dr. Waldheim apparently noted that the mandate renewal would facilitate Security Council discussion of the Palestinian problem and other broader Middle East issues of interest to Syria.

Israel had not been informed of any such letter, Allon said, nor had Waldheim or the Syrians publicly referred to it. As far as Israel was officially concerned therefore, the letter did not exist.

As regards the Security Council resolution itself, officials here pointed to several "achievements" for Israel in the wording of the text:

- Resolution 338 is again referred to. In the UNDOF mandate renewal resolution of six months ago there was no reference to Syria's insistence on a "linkage" to the renewal (which speaks of negotiations between the parties for an overall peace).
- The Palestinian problem is not referred to. In the renewal resolution six months ago the mandate extension was linked — on Syria's insistence — to a subsequent Security Council debate on the Palestinian problem, in which the PLO was invited to participate.
- The reference to "all relevant UN resolutions," which was included in the renewal resolution six months ago — on Syria's insistence — is removed from the new resolution. Syria and other Arab states claimed at that time that the phrase referred to General Assembly resolutions, some of which took a pro-PLO line, as well to earlier Security Council resolutions.

Peres solution: Confederation

NEW YORK — Defence Minister Shimon Peres said in an interview with "Time" magazine that he foresees a political solution for the West Bank through a confederation of Israel, the West Bank and Jordan.

He explained that there would be two levels of government: regional, like states in America, and the other a national government. He said that most matters would be decided at the regional level, but that defence and foreign affairs would be in the hands of the national government.

At present employees are compensated for 70 per cent of price rises. Some reports said yesterday the Treasury did not want to compensate workers for price rises arising from a cut in subsidies and imposition of Value Added Tax.

Civil war's worst clashes in Lebanon

Urgent bid for peace talks

BEIRUT — Violent battles raged across Lebanon's capital and countryside yesterday, plunging the country into some of the worst fighting of the 14-month civil war. Militia leaders held urgent meetings to try to stop the escalation before it wrecked President-elect Elias Sarkis' attempts to convene peace talks, now delayed by weeks.

The leaders' parley seemed to have some effect as, by midday, combat in Beirut and the northern Akkar region, where leftist army troops besieged two Christian towns, died down to sporadic clashes.

More than 1,000 heavy mortar shells fell on the eastern, western and southern sectors of the city in 24 hours, leaving about 113 dead and 230 wounded — most of them civilians.

The casualties included 25 dead and 40 wounded when mortars ripped through a crowded vegetable market in the Sabra refugee camp in southeastern Beirut, and five injured by shrapnel when shells landed on the Hotel Dieu hospital in the Christian-held eastern sector.

Muslim districts lie next to Christian-dominated foothills.

Sarkis told the Arab League yesterday he was not authorised yet to agree to an Arab League meeting at any level to try to stop the civil war.

Sarkis, in a message to Arab League Secretary-General Mahmoud Riad, said he could not take a decision because he had not taken over constitutional powers. He promised to continue his efforts to reconcile the various factions in the war.

The head of Lebanon's Communist Party said yesterday that Russia opposes the Syrian intervention in the civil war here and this will be a prime subject for Premier Alexi Kosygin during his visit to Damascus.

George Hawi, whose party is fighting on the leftist side, ridiculed right-wing suggestions that the "international left" is prolonging the Lebanese conflict, particularly Soviet-backed Communism.

He said in an interview with the English-language "Internal Affairs of Lebanon" magazine: "It has become public knowledge that the Soviet Union, which is keen on safeguarding its relations with Syria, stands against the Syrian military involvement in Lebanon."

Hawi said Kosygin will bring this stand up during his talks scheduled to begin on Thursday with President Hafez Assad of Syria. The Soviet Premier is on an official visit to Iraq, after which he will move on to Syria.

In Baghdad, Kosygin and Iraqi President Ahmed Hassan al-Bakr met yesterday to discuss inter-Arab relations and the strengthening of ties with the Soviet Union, the Iraqi news agency said.

(UPI, AP, Reuters)

Syria-Egypt mediation to resume

KUWAIT — The foreign ministers of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia will fly to Cairo and Damascus early next week to resume their mediation efforts between Egypt and Syria, it was officially announced here yesterday.

Minister of State Abdel Aziz Hussein said following a meeting of the Kuwaiti Cabinet, that Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmed al-Jaber and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal will meet President Sadat of Egypt in Cairo tomorrow and President Hafez Assad of Syria in Damascus on Wednesday.

He said the two ministers will carry a "tentative working paper for ending the dispute between Egypt and Syria over Egypt's Sinai agreement with Israel."

(AP)

King Hussein trying to keep political equilibrium

Jerusalem Post Reporter
The soundings made by King Hussein of Jordan in the Soviet Union about the possibility of purchasing Russian ground-to-air missiles and other weaponry are seen in Jerusalem as an effort by the Hashemite monarch to reach a state of political equilibrium in his relations between East and West.

According to a Cabinet source, Hussein may go as far as to consummate purchases, but he will not cross the dividing line separating a predominant orientation to the West and a predominant orientation to the East. The monarch and conservative nature of his regime, and the non-socialist nature of his economy and his society, will not permit him to identify with the Soviet Union, though they need not prevent him from doing business. The Cabinet source said that Saudi

Arabia and Kuwait have too much influence over Hussein, and have him too much in their debt since 1987, to permit him to turn his back on the West.

The prospect of a Russo-Jordanian arms transaction is something which Israel can do little about, it is felt in Jerusalem. Hussein will not be influenced by Israeli statements that "it doesn't really matter who rules in Amman" — the alternatives being Hussein or the Palestinians.

Israel's policy has always been to relate to the rulers in power in the surrounding Arab capitals as a fact of life; in Egypt, for example, from Farouk through Nasser and Sadat. Hence if a Palestinian were to rule in Amman, and not a Hashemite, Israel would have to work out a pragmatic relationship with the new regime, the view is held in Jerusalem.

Histadrut to oppose cut in subsidies, C-o-L

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT
Jerusalem Post Reporter
TEL AVIV — The Histadrut yesterday served notice it will oppose any cut in government subsidies to basic commodities before October and any reduction in the cost-of-living allowance due then.

Secretary-General Yerushalmi Meisel told the Central Committee here yesterday that "several months ago an explicit agreement had been signed (with the government) providing that the prices of subsidized commodities be stable at least until October."

Meisel also said the labour federation will not negotiate any cut in the increase due in the cost-of-living allowance in October.

At present employees are compensated for 70 per cent of price rises. Some reports said yesterday the Treasury did not want to compensate workers for price rises arising from a cut in subsidies and imposition of Value Added Tax.

This means they will be compensated for only 35-40 per cent of the price rises, it was estimated.

The labour federation and the Coordinating Bureau of Economic Organizations had signed a four-year agreement over the cost-of-living allowance at the Finance Minister's office here, last August 1.

The government went along with this agreement. Meisel who presents this agreement as one of his most important achievements and who claims the C-o-L allowance is an important instrument for protecting workers in time of inflation, is expected to put up a hard fight to prevent eroding it, should such an attempt be made.

The Secretary-General said yesterday that the Central Committee will hold a special meeting to discuss economic and social policies. Prime Minister Rabin will attend the meeting. No date had been set yet.

Kaddum issue still frozen

Jerusalem Post Reporter
No visible progress has been made so far on the Government's much-publicized decision of May 9 to shift the Kaddum settlement group of Gush Etzion to a new site.

The Committee of Ministers on Settlement has not met in the three weeks which have elapsed. No member of the Committee, or other Government representative, has visited Kaddum to air proposals for a fresh site, according to a reliable political source in regular touch with Gush Etzion.

Mamam's Victor Shemtov, the Minister of Health, asked Prime Minister Rabin at yesterday's Cabinet session whether anything had been done to implement the Cabinet decision over the past three weeks. Rabin replied that he had said on May 9 that "a number of weeks

would be required" and this period had not yet expired.

The Committee on Settlement has not yet met. One Cabinet source said, because its chairman Yisrael Galili has not yet worked out proposals. The source said that if Galili by-passed the Committee and took his eventual proposals direct to the full Cabinet instead, this would not disturb Cabinet precedent and would not disturb the protagonists.

A Mamam source told *The Post* last night that the decision could not yet be considered as deliberate procrastination on Galili's part but it was "getting close to the verge."

Yesterday's Cabinet session was the second successive meeting in which Premier Rabin and Defence Minister Shimon Peres forbore to bicker, it was learned. Their mutual comments were described as "polite without being more than cordial."

Ship turned back because of barbecue

HAIFA — The Zim freighter Kesarya which left Eilat for the Far East with 7,000 tons of cargo last Thursday has been turned back by her captain. He radioed that discipline on board had broken down and he therefore decided on the unusual step of returning a fully-laden ship. She is due back in Eilat today.

It was learned that the troubles broke out between the master, Captain Amnon Tadmor and the Bosun, Aharon Zuckerman. The two already had a dispute in the past, and in one case Zuckerman was fined IL900 on disciplinary charges.

Apparently the reason that the captain turned back the ship was the holding of a barbecue on the deck — considered a danger to the ship's safety. Zim, the Transport Ministry and the Marine Officers' Union, are to start an investigation when the ship returns.

Linkage of pound is questioned

Jerusalem Post Economic Reporter
Economic experts in Jerusalem yesterday questioned the wisdom of linking the pound to a basket of currencies, as advocated by the Bank of Israel and included in the proposed currency law to be approved by the Cabinet shortly.

They based their opinion on Treasury figures — obtained by *The Jerusalem Post* — which show that 80 per cent of export revenues are in U.S. dollars.

The "basket" proposed by the Bank of Israel includes 40 per cent U.S. dollars. Thus, a devaluation when the pound is linked to the basket would have to be at a higher rate — twice as high as devaluations at present. There is no need for the basket, which will force the Government to devalue more than under the present system with the pound linked to the dollar, say the experts.

It is true that in the present system the pound hardly depreciates compared to the Italian lira and the pound Sterling (which depreciates compared to the dollar). However, since export revenues in Sterling amount to only 5.6 per cent, and revenues in lire to 0.3 per cent, the damage is minimal, compared to what it would be were the pound linked to the proposed basket.

Commerce and Industry Minister Haim Bar-Lev stated last week that if export revenues in dollars were found to exceed 70 per cent, there would be no reason to link the pound to the proposed basket.

The suggested currency law to be discussed by the Cabinet enables, but does not force, changing the linkage of the pound from the dollar to the basket.

If re-elected, Ford won't change policy

Jerusalem Post Staff
President Ford has pledged not to change his Middle East policy after the November Presidential elections (if he is re-elected).

In an interview with Ma'ariv's deputy editor Moshe Zak at the White House, Ford said:

"After the elections there will be no change in the direction of my policy. There will be no change in my devotion to the aims I have defined on many occasions: momentum and good relations with Israel." He also mentioned "my friendly relations with Premier Rabin."

Zak wrote that most of his talk with the President was "off the record." He had been particularly impressed by the President's detailed familiarity with the Security Council's discussions last week on the West Bank and on the UNDOF mandate renewal.

Soviets to replace Kalatchnikov

NEW YORK — "Newsweek" says the Soviet Union is working on a new rifle that will replace its Kalatchnikov AK-47, which it describes as the most widely used assault weapon in the world.

In its forthcoming issue, the news weekly says the new Soviet weapon is lighter than the AK-47, has improved hitting power and carries 30 cartridges in its "banana clip." The AK-47 clip carries 30 cartridges.

According to "Newsweek," U.S. intelligence analysts believe that the cartridges of the new Russian rifle do not have metal casings. Thus, the magazine says, is the first time such a saving in weight has been achieved in the making of rifle ammunition.

\$102m. U.S. aid deal for Egypt

CAIRO — Egypt and the United States yesterday signed a \$102m. aid package under the economic assistance programme of the U.S. Agency for International Development.

A U.S. official said \$99m. will be used to construct a 300 megawatt power station on the west bank of Great Bitter Lake in the Suez Canal. "This assistance is for continued industrial expansion and urban rehabilitation in the Suez area to help improve the rural and urban living conditions and to contribute to the general reconstruction of the Suez Canal area," an A.I.D. spokesman said.

More guerrillas killed in Rhodesia as OAU committee to begin discussions in Tanzania

SALISBURY — Rhodesian security forces have killed seven more black nationalist guerrillas, bringing to 37 the number killed in the past five days. It was announced here on Sunday. The announcement came as preparations were being made in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, for a meeting of the liberation committee of the Organization of African Unity starting tomorrow.

The intensifying guerrilla war in Rhodesia is expected to dominate the OAU discussions. Other subjects are expected to be the guerrilla war in South West Africa (Namibia) and the future of the French territory of the Afars and Issas.

The security headquarters in Salisbury gave no more details on the latest clash except to say that one member of the security forces was wounded and that "substantial quantities of terrorist war material have been captured."

So far this month, 103 guerrillas and 23 Rhodesian soldiers were reported killed, making it the bloodiest month in the escalating guerrilla warfare.

A total of 893 guerrillas, operating from bases in neighbouring Mozambique, have been killed since the war began in December 1972, including 253 this year alone. Over the same period, a total of 112 Rhodesian troops have died in action, 37 of them this year including 18 this month.

The last liberation committee meeting in Maputo (formerly Lourenco Marques) in January coincided with the beginning of a new guerrilla offensive in Rhodesia and in the last few months the nationalists have significantly stepped up their military campaign.

Constitutional talks between Rhodesian Premier Ian Smith and black nationalist leader Joshua Nkomo broke down in March but almost all hope of a negotiated settlement had been lost before then.

The guerrilla war has been simmering in Rhodesia since 1972 but in recent months nationalist military activity has reached unprecedented levels with attacks deep inside the country.

The liberation committee will review these latest military developments as well as the continued bitter feuding between two factions of the Rhodesian African National Council (ANC).

But informed sources said the committee was unlikely to make any major policy changes in this area. The situation is reasonably satisfactory from the committee's point of view because the political divisions do not appear to be impairing the military campaign, now accepted as the only way to liberation.

Although the liberation committee is angered by the continued ANC split, committee executive secretary Bashim Mwa recently called on nationalist leaders to stop speech-making and concentrate on the liberation struggle — the sources denied earlier reports that it would choose between one of the factions or come out in favour of the guerrillas in the field, who it is believed might be developing political aspirations of their own.

The liberation committee is not

in a position to make such a decision which would be like interference in the internal political affairs of a country, the sources said.

In any case they pointed out that the developments in the Rhodesian situation were being handled at a higher level than the liberation committee by the Presidents of Mozambique, Botswana, Zambia and Tanzania, who are specially charged with responsibility for the problem by the OAU.

The liberation committee will also be reviewing the situation in Namibia. Since the committee last met the Angolan war has ended with a victory for the left wing MPLA and this has been a favourable development for SWAPO (South West African Peoples Organisation) which can now use bases in Angola just over the Namibian border.

The committee meeting will also hear the report of the OAU's special fact finding mission to the territory of the Afars and Issas whose approaching independence has caused considerable friction between Ethiopia and Somalia.

(Reuters, AP)

When's the last time you joined in a parade?

Calling all U.S. Veterans in or out of uniform to march from Wolfson Towers in Jerusalem to the Hebrew U. Stadium at 2 p.m. on July 4 for formal Bicentennial Ceremonies.

Please contact Tel. 02-222448 or 03-475614 and let us know you're coming.

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Treasury plans new measures to accomplish budget aims

By GIDION ESHEET
Jerusalem Post Economic Reporter

THE TREASURY'S experts are in the final stages of evaluating the current economic situation and outlining additional measures aimed at accomplishing the targets of the national budget.

The chief measures concern preserving the IL55.2b. state budget for the current fiscal year. They will include absorption of IL1.5b. of increased costs within the existing ministries' budgets, a IL2b. cut from already-approved expenditures, and advancing the cuts in Government subsidies for basic commodities from October to August.

The Finance Minister has already approved (and publicly announced) the decision that all ministries absorb the cost increases, and will bring this to the Cabinet early in June. The reason for this is the revised estimate of price rises during the current year: the budget had been based on an estimate of 25 per cent, while current estimates put price rises at 32 per cent for the year.

This means the ministries would have to spend IL1,500m. more than has been allocated to carry out the same programmes. Absorbing the higher costs will mean cutbacks in the programmes.

The Defence Ministry, which gets the largest share of the state budget, has always been the strongest opponent of absorption of higher costs, as it has the most to lose. Unlike other ministries, however, the Defence Ministry has obtained the entire amount to account for the estimated 25 per cent increase at the beginning of the fiscal year — on condition that it make no further claims for higher costs later in the year. In the first month of the fiscal year costs rose by nearly six per cent.

BUDGET CUTS
The proposal to cut IL2,000m. from the budget is more sensitive, politically. Treasury officials, however, point out that this is a must if national budget targets are to be reached. They stress that unemployment has not grown sufficiently. Unemployment should reach a figure of 50,000 to 60,000 to create the needed pressure for a shift from services to industry. According to Moshe Mandelbaum, Director-General of the Commerce and Industry Ministry, shortage of industrial labour is the main obstacle to further export growth.

Another reason for the cuts, say the experts, is to keep the Government's deficit at IL3,000m. as planned. Its revenues are falling below the forecast, because of a shortfall in sales of bonds after their linkage to the index was curtailed to 90 per cent in December.

But Treasury officials have admitted that no less important a consideration for the cut was U.S. pressure. While the U.S. has agreed to cover Israel's economic needs with \$100m. aid, it is reluctant to cover defence costs at their current level, and is pressuring Israel to show its population is sharing in the burden. A cut in both Government and private consumption is seen as meeting the American demand.

Treasury officials last night denied there was a plan to effect such a cut. They said the Finance Minister feels absorbing the IL2,000m. increase is not enough. Treasury documents discussing such a cut, they said, were merely "working papers."

CUTTING CONSUMPTION
The budget cut will affect private consumption, not enough to reduce it by 3 per cent, as prescribed by the Government. The latest estimates show that consumption is unlikely to change in 1978 compared to 1975 — or will decline by 1 per cent, at most.

This is seen as the main "punishment" in the Government policy this year, and Treasury officials hope instituting Value Added Tax, with the higher prices it will bring about, will reduce real income at people's disposal, and therefore reduce consumption.

They are also still discussing

plans to amend the tax laws, to keep the tax base at its present level in October, after cost-of-living increments are paid. The tax base is supposed to rise in the same proportion as the price index, according to the law.

Real disposable income, which rose by 14 per cent in the third quarter of 1975, has been declining since then — but not sufficiently. It declined by 6 per cent in the fourth quarter, by 2 per cent in this year's first quarter, and will decline only by an estimated 1 per cent in the current quarter. Meanwhile, private consumption grew by 4.5 per cent at the end of last year, and by 1 per cent in the first three months of this year — as people used savings instead of the declining income.

SUBSIDIES CUTS
Cutting the subsidies in October, as originally planned, would raise the prices of basic commodities by an average of 25 per cent — more for milk and its products, less for oil and others. The Treasury wants to advance the cuts to August, producing an average price rise of 20 per cent, instead.

The cuts are needed in order to make do with the IL1,600m. allocated in the budget for subsidies. (If prices were unchanged through 1978, the subsidy budget would have to be IL2,400m.)

The Histadrut has already criticized this plan, saying it will stand firm on unchanged prices until October, as had originally been agreed between it and the Government.

Economists in Jerusalem tend to support the Histadrut stand — though for different reasons. They say it would be in the Government's interest to wait, so that the C-o-L allowance increase in October would be smaller. If the cuts are effected in August, prices will go up and the price index will rise, forcing a higher C-o-L increment. If prices only rise in October, they will only be reflected in the C-o-L increase next April, they point out.

or the writer Mahmoud Abbasi, a former adviser on Arab youth to Education Minister Aharon Yadin.

The two MKs thought of operating independently as early as January 1974, when they told former Premier Golda Meir they did not like the idea of supporting a Coalition containing the National Religious Party. Subsequently, on several occasions — one as recently as six weeks ago — they told Cabinet Ministers that it would be healthier if they plunged their own parliamentary furrow.

In the present climate of nationalism in the Arab community, Muadi and Zuabi feel they can enhance their reputation by cutting their Alignment expressions. This would advance their interests, they believe, whether they stand in the next elections or not, and whether they win or lose.

Muadi is discontented because the transfer of Druse affairs direct to the Government departments involved relieves him of his former role as go-between. Zuabi is discontented because he feels he could have won a successful campaign to become mayor again in Nazareth had the Alignment backed him.

Druse schools plan one-day strike
DALIAT AL-CARMEL — Three schools in this Druse village will be closed tomorrow in protest against lack of facilities, the chairman of the parents' association, Author Salman Natur, said here yesterday.

He said the schools which accommodate 1,800 pupils, lack classrooms, libraries and laboratories; and two of them have no sports fields. The sports field that does exist in one school is dangerous, he said, and four students have been injured there this year.

The problem was brought before the Knesset Education Committee three months ago, but there has been no response, Natur said. (Itim)

Custody extended for Gilkrov suspects
TEL AVIV. — Two suspects in the fatal shooting of Shimon Gilkrov in a Sporto agency in the Shapira Quarter here on May 10 were remanded into 15 days further custody in Magistrates Court here yesterday.

Gad Flaum and Amos Masika were held in a case which police said involved three persons. They said the underworld had developed a link with the men — but had one of them in two places at the same time on the night of the murder.

On Friday, Shmaya Angel, a suspect who had been arrested and released, was re-arrested and remanded into 15 days' custody. (Itim)

Steel City management to accept Histadrut ruling on transfers
By JOSHUA BRILLIANT
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The Histadrut's Department for Productivity Councils will rule on transferring 20 workers from one department to another in Steel City in Acre, the Knesset Committee ruled yesterday in presenting a 15-page report on the plant's troubles.

Management said it will abide by the recommendations. But there

was no immediate reaction from the workers.

The committee, headed by Histadrut Treasurer Yisrael Kassar, examined plans to help the Histadrut-owned enterprise overcome yearly deficits. Last year the mills lost IL22m. During the first four months of 1978, it lost over IL5m. Management's improvement plans called for transferring 50 workers, mainly from the rolling mill to the foundry. But the workers refused. By yesterday, only eight had been transferred and management and workers agreed that 17-19 maintenance men had to be transferred. However, the workers opposed plans to shift 20-22 production men.

The committee said that "no doubt one of the measures to improve the plant involves cuts in manpower resulting from technological improvements, changes in working procedures and a new examination of manpower needs in the various departments."

It assigned the Department for Productivity Councils to rule on the dispute. This department will also decide how to allocate premiums in the melting shop. The committee ruled, however, that workers should produce "six portions" (327 tons) a day. This is more than the four produced hitherto but less than the seven portions produced with similar equipment abroad.

The committee said management should keep a smaller stock of imported materials and use regular fuel rather than low-sulphur fuel. But a Kupat Holim industrial doctor should check whether the change will affect the workers' health, it was stated.

The committee also called for freezing or cutting additional benefits. Car allowances, for example, will be cut by 15 per cent. The committee also proposed how to improve labour relations.

Yisrael Arian adds from Haifa:
The shop committee and the Acre Labour Council are studying the report and will probably explain it today to the foundry workers who have been idle for the past fortnight.

The Steel City management stated yesterday that it had received the report "and is studying its details." Backed by the management of Koor (the holding company of Steel City), "it reaffirms its decision to accept the Histadrut decision. The Steel City management decided that all concerned will act jointly to apply the findings of the Kassar Committee. The true test of the report will be its application at the production level."

Steel City employs 670 workers, 270 of them in the rolling mill.

Histadrut to sound out engineers' wage demands
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The Histadrut Central Committee yesterday appointed two of its members to sound out the engineers' and other national union demands before negotiating their new wage agreements.

The appointment of Yehoshua Woschins and Avraham Hason follows a decision of the Ministerial Committee on Wages, Friday, to negotiate with the Histadrut ways to implement the Barkai Committee

reports on the engineers' wages.

The ministers said the agreement will be in the framework of the recent wage agreements for public and civil servants. These agreements provide for 2.5 per cent wage increases this year and next year.

The engineers are demanding a 24 per cent "average" wage increase. Yesterday the engineers complained the Histadrut was going over their heads to negotiate with the Government.

GAZA SCHOOLCHILDREN will henceforth have to contribute toward the cost of their education, the Ministry of Education has decided. Students will pay school fees ranging from IL24-IL60, text book fees from IL20-IL30, and secondary school children will also pay IL40 examination fees, to a total maximum of IL200 per student. The ministry estimates that the education of each Gaza schoolchild costs an average of IL 850 a year.

25 European MPs to hold meeting here

Jerusalem Post Staff

Twenty-five parliamentarians from 13 different countries — all members of the agricultural commission of the Council of Europe — arrived yesterday in Israel, prior to holding the commission's annual meeting today in Jerusalem.

This is the first time in the council's history that the commission is holding its annual meeting outside the European continent. The meeting will be held at the Knesset.

The council has 18 member states, plus one country with observer status — Israel. It possesses a number of professional commissions, on subjects like ecology, legal problems and municipal affairs.

The agricultural commission is composed of members of parliament from Austria, Ireland, England, Belgium, West Germany, Holland, Turkey, Greece, Luxembourg, Norway, France, Sweden and Switzerland. Commission chairman is John Farr of the U.K.

The agenda includes safety and health for farm workers, productivity in agriculture and planning of an advanced international centre for Mediterranean agronomy. Reuven Eiland, Director-General of the Ministry of Agriculture, will address the group.

After the meeting, the commission will tour the country to review agricultural developments. The visit, arranged by the Foreign Ministry, will end next Sunday.

Yeshayahu in Norway

The Speaker of the Knesset, Yisrael Yeshayahu, who is visiting Norway as a guest of the Norwegian Parliament, paid a courtesy call on G. Heimen, Speaker of the Norwegian Parliament. Issues of common interest were discussed, as were the relations between the authority of parliament sitting as a constitutional court and the position of parliament per se, the Government Press Office said yesterday.

Yeshayahu gave a message to the Prime Minister of Norway, Odvar Nordli, from the Prime Minister of Israel. Nordli stressed the traditional friendship existing between Norway and Israel and a readiness to help in a peaceful solution in the Middle East.

During a conversation with Foreign Minister Knut Ryde-Land, it was noted that only a short time was devoted at the NATO foreign ministers' meeting to Middle East problems. The Knesset Speaker thanked the Government of Norway for granting "most favoured nation" status to Israel. The hope was expressed that Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Yigal Alon, whose visit to Norway was postponed last year, would soon be able to make the visit.

Druse schools plan one-day strike
DALIAT AL-CARMEL — Three schools in this Druse village will be closed tomorrow in protest against lack of facilities, the chairman of the parents' association, Author Salman Natur, said here yesterday.

He said the schools which accommodate 1,800 pupils, lack classrooms, libraries and laboratories; and two of them have no sports fields. The sports field that does exist in one school is dangerous, he said, and four students have been injured there this year.

The problem was brought before the Knesset Education Committee three months ago, but there has been no response, Natur said. (Itim)

Custody extended for Gilkrov suspects

TEL AVIV. — Two suspects in the fatal shooting of Shimon Gilkrov in a Sporto agency in the Shapira Quarter here on May 10 were remanded into 15 days further custody in Magistrates Court here yesterday.

Gad Flaum and Amos Masika were held in a case which police said involved three persons. They said the underworld had developed a link with the men — but had one of them in two places at the same time on the night of the murder.

On Friday, Shmaya Angel, a suspect who had been arrested and released, was re-arrested and remanded into 15 days' custody. (Itim)

Free Carriage of Soldiers on Public Transport

The Goods and Services (Transport of Soldiers) Order, 1976 made by the Minister of Transport on May 30, 1976, provides as follows:

- The operator of the service (Egged) including members, salaried employees, drivers, conductors and all other workers employed in the service provided by Egged, must provide all soldiers with free transport on the interurban routes of Egged (as listed in Reshumot) at all times that the service is operated on any route.
- The operator of the service may not refuse to carry any soldier who wishes to travel by bus (in accordance with the provisions of this order) unless there is no room on the bus for an additional passenger.
- I detail hereunder arrangements that will apply to the free transport of members of the Israel Defence Forces on public transport routes:

- These arrangements will apply to all soldiers in the Israel Defence Forces who are performing their period of national service or are regulars.
- The soldiers referred to in Para. A. will be entitled to free transport on showing their officer's or soldier's certificate.
- The laws and regulations applying to all ordinary public transport passengers will apply to soldiers travelling under the terms of this order.
- The free transport arrangements will apply on all sections of the interurban routes of Egged, the route numbers of which contain three digits, but only on these routes. The arrangements will not apply on Egged routes located south of Mitzpeh Ramon and the Arava Junction (Yotvat Haharav) of which the starting point and/or destination is south of Mitzpeh Ramon, nor on routes of the service operated in Sinai.
- The arrangement under which soldiers in uniform had priority in bus queues is cancelled.
- This order comes into effect on Tuesday, June 1, 1976.

Yaacov Malca
Controller of Road Transport

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Nahshon Bakery fined IL22,000

BEERSHEBA. — The Nahshon Bakery and its owner Leon Berger were fined IL22,000 in Magistrates Court here yesterday, for 20 counts of selling contaminated bread.

The 20 complaints included cases of insects in the bread, mouse droppings, balls of thread, and sour dough. The judge said he was being lenient because Berger admitted the charges and saved the court time. Judge Yitzhak Banai therefore permitted the baker to pay the bakery's IL15,000 fine and his own IL7,000 fine in three instalments.

Berger, earlier this year, was the first person in Israel to be given a prison sentence by a Labour Court — for employing minors illegally. (The sentence was later suspended on appeal.) Berger also was charged last year with defrauding the Government out of IL3m. in bread subsidies, and with tax evasion on income of more than IL10m. — believed to be the largest tax evasion case in Israel. That case is still pending. (Itim)

Lotto winner sues agency

HAIFA. — A man who chose a winning Lotto number yesterday filed suit against the owners of the agency where he bought his ticket — because they forgot to turn in his stub.

Shlomo Shariki of Netanya is demanding IL285,000 from Ta'acov and Arye Fiedersberg, since he couldn't get the prize from the central Lotto agency. The total prize was IL500,000, but two other persons guessed the six winning figures, and the sum was to be divided among the three. The amount he demanded includes IL20,000 for the suffering and other expenses the incident has caused him. (Itim)

Kfir to go on show abroad

BEN-GURION AIRPORT. — Israel's Kfir war plane will be shown in public for the first time outside Israel at the Farnborough Air Show in Britain in September. Eikana Gali, sales manager of Israel Aircraft Industries, announced here yesterday.

Gali said the show's organizers insisted on making room for the Kfir, although all the exhibition space had already been rented, because they considered it "the attraction of the year." The Kfir will be one of 100 planes shown at the show, in which 400 firms involved in aircraft manufacture will take part. (Itim)

Nine years for cafe shooting

TEL AVIV. — A 24-year-old man was sentenced to nine years in prison by District Court judges here yesterday for wounding two youths with a gun in the Athens cafe last July.

Nissim Daboush was charged with attempt to murder, but the court ruled that the intention had not been proven and convicted him of causing grievous bodily injury and possessing a firearm without a licence.

Daboush entered the cafe, on Herbert Samuel Pier, last July 16, asked someone to call Hananya Ohana over, and shot both Ohana and Victor Barada in their legs. The motive for the shooting was not discovered in court. (Itim)

Six years for holding hashish

TEL AVIV. — A local man was convicted of possession of 33 kilograms of hashish and sentenced to six years in prison by a District Court judge here yesterday.

David Czebnick, nicknamed "Rosh (Head)," was the owner of a suitcase full of hashish found on the roof of the building he lives in at the corner of Rehov Weizmann and Rehov Aharosoroff.

Czebnick's girlfriend, Margareta Mazouz, received a suspended two-year sentence; and a third suspect, Gil Yehudai, was cleared. (Itim)

Appeal to school principals

Jerusalem Post Reporter

The chairman of the Knesset Education Committee, Avraham Katz, yesterday appealed to the Organization of Elementary School Principals to ease their sanctions against the Education Ministry and to prepare end-of-year report cards. Failure to issue these certificates would cause hardship to pupils applying for admission to junior high or high schools, and to those wishing to transfer from one elementary school to another.

Pharmaceutical firms merge

TEL AVIV. — A merger of three pharmaceutical firms, Zori, Assia and Teva, was approved in District Court here yesterday.

Zori and Assia will become part of Teva, retroactive to April 1, 1976. The oldest company is Zori, founded in 1932, with current paid-up capital of IL1.5m.

Teva, set up in 1944, has paid-up capital of IL12m. and registered capital of IL50m., which will be increased to IL75m. (Itim)

Maritime ship held in Germany

Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — The Maritime Fruit Carriers ship Avocado Core has been held up in a German port by a court order obtained by the Israeli oil marketing company, Trans-Asiat, over a debt.

Previously, the same company's Madarim Core was attached and ordered sold in Hawaii at the request of an American creditor. It was learned that seamen serving on the ship have encountered difficulties over pay. (Itim)

Bobover Rebbe here

BEN-GURION AIRPORT. — The Rebbe of Bobov, Shlomo Halberstam, arrived here yesterday for a visit and was besieged by singing and dancing hasidim.

The push was so great that El Al officials whisked him off with his family in a car they brought up to the plane on the tarmac. He went from the airport to a reception in his honour at Kiryat Bobov in Bat Yam.

The *admor* came with followers who filed a Boeing 747 Jumbo jet. They will celebrate the Shavuot holiday here at the end of this week. (Itim)

Social and Personal

President Ephraim Katzir yesterday received Ephraim Evron, deputy director-general of the Foreign Ministry, who reported on his meeting with Argentina's President Videla, whom he visited as President Katzir's emissary.

Rabbi David Hartman will speak (in English) on "Philosophic Reflections on the Ten Commandments," tonight, 8 p.m., at the Hebrew University Forum meeting at the United Synagogue, 4 Rehov Agaron, Jerusalem.

Moshe Tutin, dean of students at the David Yellin Teachers College, Jerusalem, will speak on: "Immigrants — their education and absorption" at a meeting of the Friends of the David Yellin College, Jerusalem branch, on June 6 at 8 p.m. at the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. Kronberg, E. Talpolt.

The Jerusalem West Rotary Club will hold a business meeting tonight, 7 p.m., at the King David Hotel.

A farewell party for the participants in the courses on rural community development and kindergarten teaching and supervision was held at the Mt. Carmel International Training Centre last night.

IN MEMORIAM

The Ne'eman family of Safad, whose daughter Ilana was killed with 21 others in a terrorist attack on the schoolchildren at Ma'alot two years ago, dedicated a Torah scroll it presented to the Torah Moshe Emet Synagogue yesterday. Mayor Aharon Nahmias of Safad and the town's Chief Rabbi David Dayan spoke in memory of the victims.

Israel hoopssters beat Belgians

Jerusalem Post Sports Reporter

ACRE. — Israel scored its third successive victory in the European Nations basketball cup, beating Belgium 91-75 at Na'aman last night. Half-time score was 49-39.

The Israel team has the hardest part of the competition before it — as it has to play away games against West Germany, Turkey and Belgium. The top squad of the group goes on to the next round in the cup tournament.

Playing before 3,000 fans last night, Israel's squad put on one of their finest performances in recent years, especially in the second half, when they extended their lead to a promising 16 points.

Bombs in Nablus

NABLUS. — Three explosions occurred in various parts of Nablus yesterday, causing no injuries but damaging a car belonging to a local notable.

These blasts followed two which occurred over the weekend in Ramallah, where the entrance to a bank was slightly damaged. One of the explosions was outside the home of a man being held in connection with a murder over the recent municipal elections.

Yeshivat Hakotel

records with profound sorrow the passing of

Reb AVRAM b'Reb DOV BER OXENHANDLER ז"ל

We extend our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family.

SUSI SUZANNE BRAND

A Memorial Service and Tombstone Dedication will take place on Tuesday, June 1, 1976, at 3:15 p.m., at the New Cemetery, Kfar Samir, Haifa.

(Meeting at the Cemetery entrance).

On behalf of the family, The bereaved husband, ISRAEL BRAND

I wish to thank all those who expressed their sympathy in writing or in person.

ANNIE LEVY

We deeply mourn the passing of

ANNIE LEVY ז"ל

1, Place Claparté, 1205 Geneva

Head of Geneva Office, Suisse Romande Division-Keren Hayesod

Over a long period of years, Mrs. Levy served Keren Hayesod and Israel with exemplary devotion and distinction.

May her memory long be cherished and remembered.

EGRA Z. SHAPIRO

World Chairman
Keren Hayesod-United Israel Appeal

NESSIM D. GAON
Chairman, Suisse Romande
Keren Hayesod-Action Israel

Police probe continues into B-G Airport bomb incident

By YITZHAK OKED
Jerusalem Post Reporter

BEN-GURION AIRPORT. — Police are still trying to identify the blond European kid in the bomb blast here last Tuesday. At the end of the week experts in the Criminal Identification Department of the police managed to "reconstruct" his face, which had been badly burnt in the explosion.

The "reconstruction" was done with the aid of special chemicals, which gave the face a whitish, powdered effect. The "reconstructed" face was photographed and was sent to central offices in France of Interpol, together with his fingerprints and a couple of Identikit photos prepared by several people who had seen the man. The police hypothesized the witnesses, to help them better remember his face.

Airport security officials have requested their counterparts in Vienna to find out if the explosive detector at the airport was used when checking the baggage of the man killed in the blast.

Officials here believe that if the instrument was used the explosives should have been detected. It is believed that the explosives were of a very powerful type.

Explosive detectors are used by a number of airports, including the Austrian airport. Experts believe that by using this instrument one can detect explosives in a bag no matter how well hidden. There are several companies which produce

such instruments, including an Israeli firm.

After Wolfish adds:

Under the cover of secrecy of the Committee of Ministers for Security Affairs, the Cabinet was briefed yesterday by Transport Minister Gad Ya'acobi, Police Inspector-General Shaul Rosolov, and representatives of the Shin Bet (domestic security service) about the airport blast. No details of the terrorist outrage as discussed in the Cabinet meeting were divulged, but the ministers were given a run-down of the security arrangements at the airport.

In the brief exchange between ministers, which was summed up by Premier Yitzhak Rabin, condolences were expressed once again on the death of the security officer Margalit Ben-Zahal, and hopes were expressed that the wounded would soon recover. Ministers commended all the authorities at the airport, for what they described as the efficient and vigilant manner in which the security procedures were carried out, and they praised the fact that Ben-Gurion Airport was restored to regular operation a short time after the bombing.

Arthur Kesselman adds:

Tel Aviv police yesterday picked up an American tourist who resembles a suspect in the airport bombing and held him "incommunicado" for three hours. He was John Curto, of Italian extraction, who has been in Israel with his wife since last Wednesday. They

are on their way home to the U.S. from Japan. Curto was picked up at the British Airways office.

Curto said he was forced to stand in the corridor of a police station for an hour and a half without even being given a glass of water. Only toward the end of his detention, added Curto, did the police explain to him that he was picked up because he resembled the 23-year-old Kuwaiti, Khaled al-Katami, who is suspected of complicity in last week's Ben-Gurion Airport bomb incident. When the police recognized their mistake, he said, they refused to take him back to the airline office.

Commenting on his ordeal, Curto stated: "That they picked me up I can understand. That's part of security. But why did they have to treat me like a dog?"

U.S.-Israel Business Council meeting here

Jerusalem Post Economic Reporter

The Israel-U.S. Business Council will meet in Israel June 7-10 to discuss U.S. investments in Israel.

The American delegation of industrialists and businessmen will be headed by former governor George Romney, and the Israeli delegation by Marc Moscovici.

The council will meet with Prime Minister Rabin, Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz and Commerce and Industry Minister Haim Bar-Lev.

Citizens Rights may back Yadin, says Aloni

TEL AVIV. — The Citizens Rights Movement will talk to Prof. Yigael Yadin about possible political cooperation, Shulamit Aloni, MK, told the press here yesterday. The points to be clarified in discussions include his stand on a "Jewish democratic state," she said.

She commended Yadin on the announcement last week that he would seek a mandate from the public — "in contrast to other generals, who gave their orders to those below." She said he had not said clearly on the political map, with no attempt to set up an "ideological supermarket."

But she disapproved of his refusal to run if he receives only three Knesset seats. Like the CRM, "Small parties have developed the image of little groups — but we should remember it was the group that saved the Prophet Jonah from death (by providing shade), while not every general could save Nineveh."

None of the generals who have entered politics — and that includes Ezer Weizman, Ariel Sharon, Haim Bar-Lev and Yitzhak Rabin — have added anything

to the quality of life in Israel, she said. "Rabin didn't run for election," she said. "He was elected for running from Sapi's room to Golda's room."

Increasing the number of parties didn't improve political life, Aloni thought; but more parties were better than coalitions such as the Likud or the Alignment, which were incapable of functioning.

Regarding Tourism Minister Moshe Kol's call to establish a liberal centre, she said his intention was in fact to have the CRM and Shinui strengthen the Independent Liberals — his party. She said the CRM and Shinui were "on the same wave length" but refused to say anything about Arye Eliav, MK, except that she regretted the establishment of his Ya'ad faction.

In answer to a question, she said proposals to return the CRM to the Labour Party or to the Alignment under certain conditions had come from an "authoritative level" but she thought there was no point in discussing them since the CRM was not an extreme opposition. (Tlm)

Civil aviation workers postpone sanctions

By ZEEV SCHUL

Jerusalem Post Aviation Reporter

BEN-GURION AIRPORT. — The civil aviation workers' staff committee yesterday announced that they will postpone planned sanctions following a request by Histadrut Secretary-General Yeruham Meshel, last weekend. The workers had planned to begin sanctions tomorrow, claiming that they were being discriminated against and demanding the same wages and benefits given to other employees of the aviation industry.

A spokesman told an Ilim reporter that the committee had resolved to "give Meshel some more time to deal with our claims, especially since the trade unions have found our demands justified and worthy of support."

The spokesman added that the Histadrut had not made any promises, "but had at least shown understanding for the fact that the special flight allowance paid to the industry workers differed from the general type of "specific" allow-

ances paid to some civil servant categories, which are now in the process of being cancelled."

Meanwhile, trouble is brewing at the terminal's new customs (air freight) building, where the workers are threatening a massive walkout and a return to the old facilities, next door to the terminal building. The workers complain that the new building is too noisy as it is located directly under the approach path of incoming aircraft. The noise created by planes flying at low altitudes is said to be insufferable, and some of the men claim that their hearing has been impaired. Some of the halls are also described as poorly ventilated, stuffy and windowless.

The director of the freight terminal, Gershon Peled, told an Ilim reporter that acoustics engineers had been called in to suggest means of overcoming the noise problems. He requested the customs staff to show some "patience and forbearance" to enable him to cope with the problems.

GOLDA MEIR IN U.S. INTERVIEW: Israel has no nuclear arms

Jerusalem Post Correspondent

WASHINGTON. — Former Prime Minister Golda Meir acknowledged yesterday for the first time that Israel has no nuclear arms.

Pressed in an interview to comment on the CIA report that Israel possesses nuclear weapons, Meir went beyond the regular formula that Israel will not be the first to introduce nuclear arms in the area and said it has no such arms.

"Absolutely pure nonsense," she commented when asked on ABC's "Issues and Answers" whether Israel possessed such weaponry.

"We are not a nuclear country," she added. "We don't have nuclear weapons."

Asked again, she replied: "No, Sir, Israel does not have nuclear weapons."

In reply to a question whether the United States and Israel might be heading for a "crisis in relations" because of the Jewish settlement of occupied territories, she replied: "No, I really don't think so. That does not mean that we have not had differences of opinion in the past. The basic relations between the U.S. and Israel is one where one cannot speak of a real crisis."

She defended the Jewish settlements, saying Israel considers the western side of the Jordan River its "security border." "This," she added, "does not mean we're not prepared for territorial compromise."

Meir, who said she will be meeting U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger today, said efforts to secure an agreement for a state of "non-belligerence" have been underway. But, she added, she has no word of any "positive gesture" from the Arab nations.

She defended the leadership of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Most people think Rabin "is a good prime minister, and I say it," she said.

On Friday, Meir had what sources close to her described as "a very good meeting" with Democratic presidential candidate Jimmy Carter. She was said to have come away from the session pleased.

According to sources, Meir stressed during the meeting her belief that the matter of territories was not blocking a Middle East settlement, but the refusal of the Arab states to make peace with Israel.

Horev opposes second school of architecture

Jerusalem Post Reporter

HAIFA. — Technion President Aluf (Res.) Amos Horev said yesterday that he strongly opposed the proposal to establish a second school of architecture in the country, in addition to the Technion's school. The proposal has been placed before the Council for Higher Education.

Horev said that in the country's present economic straits, there should be only one criterion for deciding the issue — can the Technion train as many architects as the country needs and at the required standard? He said no other consideration should influence the decision.

A HUNGER STRIKE for Soviet Prisoner of Zion Ya'acov Vinovor will be held at the Western Wall from June 1 to 3. Vinovor, 21, has been sentenced to three years in prison.

Export sales hit \$1,800m. last year

Outstanding Exporters cited

By AARON SEITNER

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Never before in the history of the State have exports been so vitally needed as today, President Ephraim Katzir said at a ceremony yesterday in the President's Residence honouring 12 firms whose rising overseas sales have earned them the title "Outstanding Exporter."

"Our economy must be strengthened," the President asserted, "and only through greater export volume can we begin to cover the trade deficits that hang over us." He said Israel's new affiliation arrangement with the Common Market "poses a real challenge for us," and hailed Israel's current research and development activities as one of the prime factors in boosting the country's export sales.

Those sales last year reached \$1,800m., Minister of Commerce and Industry Haim Bar-Lev announced at the ceremony. This represents a doubling of overseas sales in the past four years.

Yesterday's top honour — The Government Export Prize — went to Agan Chemicals of Ashdod.

Established in 1950, Agan began selling overseas sixteen years later. With 300 employees, it specializes in making pesticides, and the main export items are weed killers sold in the U.S., South America, South Africa and Europe. In fact, more than 85 per cent of the company's output goes for export.

Agan received its first Outstanding Exporter award in 1970. Since then, its exports have increased 24 times over, and last year they reached \$24m.

A unique feature of Agan is the fact that its export products are the result of research and development programmes. By maintaining high quality and good service to its customers, Agan has made a notable name for itself among world pesticide manufacturers.

The other Outstanding Exporters are:

MIDDLE EAST TUBES LTD. OF HAIFA: This 800-worker company was founded in 1948. Its steel pipe, designed to carry fuel and water for industrial purposes and construction, presently go to Mexico, Venezuela, Iran, Gabon, the U.S., Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya, Turkey, Rumania, Cyprus and Greece.

Exports last year totalled \$18m., which represented a 350 per cent growth for the past two years.

LAHAVI ISCAR LTD. OF NAHARIYA: Though a comparatively new company (1968), Lahavi Iscar has already found itself markets for jet engine blades in France and the U.S. A 240 per cent increase in exports over the past 24 months has brought last year's overseas sales to \$3.5m. The firm, with 400 employees, began exporting in 1973.

ELBIT COMPUTERS LTD. OF HAIFA: Thanks to an active research-and-development programme, Elbit — established in 1966 — has become a prime competitor of the major computer hardware manufacturers in developed countries.

The products turned out by its 1,150 workers are now being sold in Sweden, Great Britain, France, the U.S., Italy and Belgium. Export sales last year stood at \$9m. This was a 115 per cent greater than two years ago.

ZOHAR DALLA SOAP AND DETERGENT COMPANY OF KIBBUTZ DALLA: Iran, African countries and Bulgaria are among the markets for Dalla cleaning materials and semi-finished items used in soap and detergent manufacture.

Though its staff numbers only 60, Dalla brought its exports last year up to \$3,077,658. This was 382 per cent higher than in 1973.

LON BIOCHEMICAL LABORATORIES OF YERUHAM: Lon's line of cosmetics are now available in Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, the U.S., Hong Kong, Yugoslavia, Hungary and Ethiopia. Exports have grown by 160 per cent in the past two years, and reached \$1,380,000 last year. Founded in 1965, the firm employs 180 workers.

NETAFIM COMPANY OF KIBBUTZ HATZERIM: Drip irrigation systems and hydrocyclonic strainers are among the irrigation equipment manufactured by Netafim and sold to users in the U.S., France, Italy, Iran, South Africa, Greece and Yugoslavia.

Exports sales last year reached \$994,831, which means its foreign sales grew by 185 per cent in two years' time. Developed in Israel, Netafim's drip irrigation systems not only save water costs but also boost crop yields.

Netafim has also begun to export know-how as well as ready-to-operate irrigation networks.

FAPOO LTD. OF TEL AVIV: This 90-worker fashion house, established in 1970, exports knit velvets to Japan, Canada, the U.S., Sweden, Switzerland, Denmark, the Nether-

lands, Great Britain and France.

Exports grew by 85 per cent over the past two years and last year totalled \$473,599. Its success is attributed to original designs and ability to coordinate its own planning to conform with customers' specifications.

CONEXFURS INTERNATIONAL LTD. OF DALLAT AL-GARBI: Established only two-and-a-half years ago, Conexfurs immediately began its exports of rabbit fur coats for men and women, to buyers in Germany, France, Japan and the U.S. Its 150 workers, with the assistance of foreign investors, have succeeded in raising export figures by 490 per cent in the past two years. Last year's overseas sales reached \$2,123,000.

HILLRON COMPANY LTD. OF ASHDOD: This 12-year-old company exports fresh and canned agricultural produce to Canada, Iran, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Britain and France.

The products it ships include avocado, tomatoes, peppers, aubergines, squash, mango, pomegranates, pecan nuts, almonds, grapes and plums.

Exports last year reached \$3,327,000 which was 150 per cent more than in 1973. The company employs 110 workers.

NAHARIYA SOGLOWEK KOSHER SAUSAGE LTD. OF NAHARIYA: This veteran provisions manufacturer (established 1935) began exporting turkey meat and sausages to Western Europe in 1971, and by last year annual export sales reached \$2,650,000, up by 160 per cent from two years ago. It is the largest exporter of sausages in Israel and also the first one to penetrate European markets with turkey meat products. The company has a staff of 300.

REUVEN STEINMETZ LTD. OF NETANYA: A leading precious stone exporter, Reuven Steinmetz last year exported \$15,693,598 worth of diamonds to the U.S., Europe and the Far East. This was a 16 per cent growth compared with two years ago.

A veteran diamond exporter, the Steinmetz firm succeeded in increasing exports last year despite the drop in world demand for the stones.

Workers begin second week locked in plant

By YITZHAK OKED

Jerusalem Post Reporter

ASHDOD. — The Ashdod Automotive Industry workers lock-in into its second week tonight, with neither side budging from its stand.

The 250 locked-in workers are asking that all of them be fired and not they receive increased severance pay.

Originally, management fired 100 workers because of lack of work at the plant. The workers committee demanded that the fired workers receive increased severance pay, but management refused. The workers then locked themselves in the plant last Monday night.

Yesterday representatives of 17 major works committees in Ashdod, together with representatives of our works committees from the Dan Region, visited the locked-in workers. They voiced support of the workers and called on the Histadrut to back them in the same way that he industrialists are backing the management.

The Histadrut's reply came in a statement released at the end of a meeting of the Histadrut Central Committee, both Trade Union De-

partment Chairman Uriel Abrahamowitz and Secretary-General Yeruham Meshel called on the workers to return to normal work, after which they would agree to negotiate for the 100 fired workers. Concerning the demand that all of the workers be fired, the Histadrut said this was against principle and could not be supported.

Eliyahu Cohen head of all the works committees in Ashdod, in response to the Histadrut statement, said it could have serious consequences. "We have tried to meet Abrahamowitz and Meshel and have received a cold shoulder. If, without seeing us, they have come out with such a statement, then we are going to demand that they resign immediately, because they are not representing the true interests of the workers."

When questioned what future steps might be taken, Cohen said that they might include calling warning strikes at all the plants in Ashdod, and organizing protest marches of all the workers in Ashdod, at Histadrut headquarters in Tel Aviv and before the Knesset in Jerusalem.

HEIRS SOUGHT

Relatives of Kahmann (Karl) Grünbaum married to Sarah née SILBERSTEIN formerly of Skala, Poland

Namely:

1. Two children of Sonja Grünbaum, married name unknown
2. Three children of Manja Grünbaum, married name unknown
3. Only child of Bilma Grünbaum, married name unknown
4. Two children of Scheindel SINGER, nee Kornfeld
5. Children of Silma SINGER, settled in Israel

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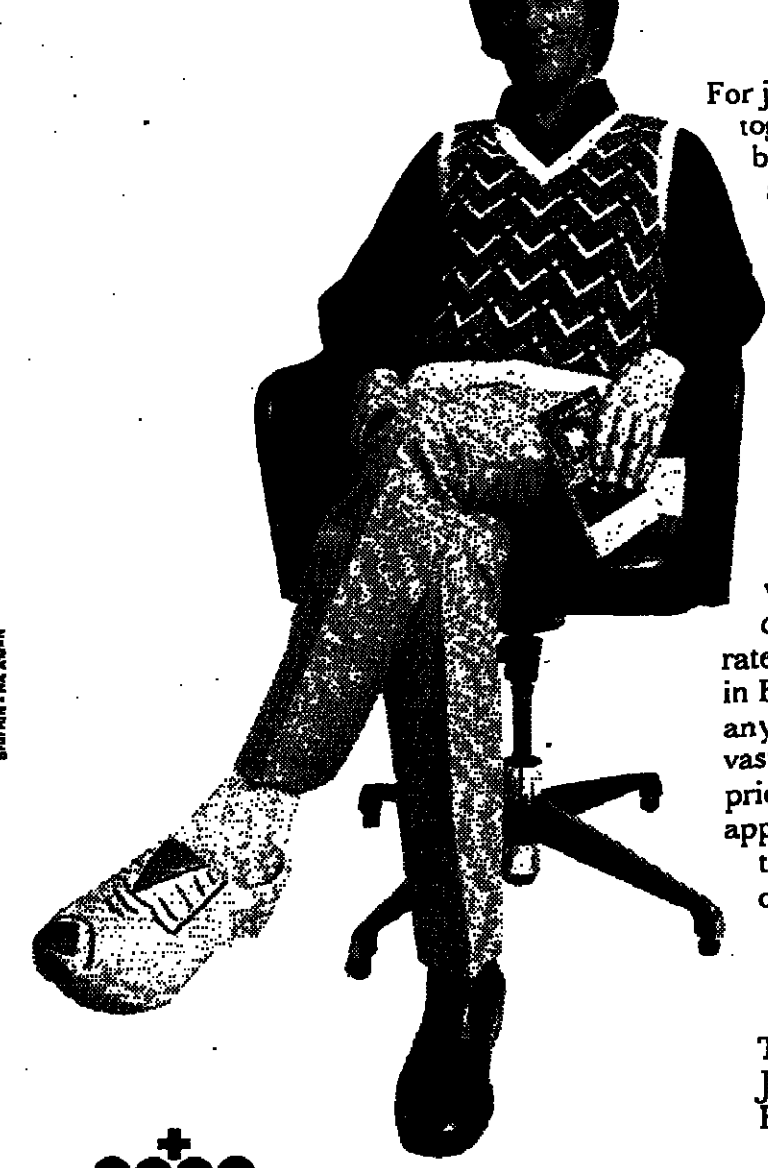
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Mexican kidnappers release girl unharmed

MEXICO CITY. — Nadine Chaval, kidnapped daughter of the Belgian ambassador, was released Saturday night by her captors.

Miss Chaval, who was kidnapped five days earlier, arrived at the embassy residence almost exactly 24 hours after her parents paid a ransom of \$408,000 to members of the "23rd of September Communist League" who pulled her from a chauffeur-driven car as she was on her way to school.

She was dropped off at the home of the Turkish ambassador who brought her to her parents.

Her release came shortly after Embassy First Secretary Nestor Andres Sortane appealed to the kidnappers to fulfill their part of the deal and release her.

She said in a courtyard exchange

with newsmen as she perched on the trunk of the car from which she had been seized, "I'm worried about my father and my mother and I'm too tired to talk."

"If you'd be so kind as to come back tomorrow I'd be glad to tell you everything that happened to me," she said.

The ambassador suffered a nervous breakdown and mild heart attack Friday and Sortane said Mrs. Chaval had reached her limit of endurance.

But Mrs. Chaval later posed for pictures, smiling and holding hands with her daughter.

"I'm very happy that she's home," Mrs. Chaval said. "We're profoundly happy that this terrible nightmare has come to an end."

The ransom had been paid shortly before midnight Friday and the Chaval family had expected Nadine to be released by noon Saturday. When they failed to hear from either her or her captors, Mrs. Chaval made a public appeal to the abductors to release Nadine.

The "23rd of September Communist League," a terrorist organization which has staged several kidnappings and shootings, had originally threatened to kill Miss Chaval unless it received \$800,000 by Thursday. But a compromise was worked out Friday.

Eye-witnesses said four men and a woman dragged Nadine from the car at gunpoint as she was being driven to school. The League admitted in a communique that its intended victim was the ambassador's daughter. Miss Chaval was also a member of the "exploiting" class, so the intended ransom would be applied to her.



Nadine Chaval after her release. (UPI telephoto)



Presidential aspirant Ronald Reagan said Saturday that he felt at home as he mounted his horse for a parade before attending an old-time rodeo and country barbecue in Paso Robles, California. The former governor of that state is entered in its primary on June 6. (UPI Telephoto)

Britain withdraws ships in move to end Cod War

REYKJAVIK. — In a major move to end the North Atlantic cod war, Iceland and Britain yesterday agreed to reopen negotiations today following the withdrawal of British warships from Iceland's disputed fishing grounds.

The Royal Navy frigates pulled out of Iceland's unilaterally declared 200-mile fishing zone at 9 last night.

Talks aimed at producing an interim settlement of the seven-month dispute between the two NATO allies will be held in the Norwegian capital of Oslo.

Iceland had refused to negotiate until Britain pulled out the six frigates sent to protect British trawlers defying Iceland's unilateral declaration of an exclusive fishing zone stretching 200 miles around its shores.

In London, British authorities said they were bowing to the Icelandic demand. "In the belief that negotiations could now be held with a good prospect of agreement."

Forty-two British trawlers now operating off east Iceland were ordered to haul in their nets and stop fishing to help create a good atmosphere for the Oslo conference, according to London officials.

Britain will be represented at Oslo by Foreign Secretary Anthony

WORLD SCENE

MAO STILL DYING

FOR YEARS NOW there have been rumours that Mao Tse-tung was about to die from some unspecified malady, and these reports have again begun circulating. This time, however, the denials from official sources in Peking came quickly, and their swiftness is perhaps the best measure of the seriousness of the current power struggle on the Chinese mainland. The state of Mao's health is undoubtedly a main reason for the events which have shaken the top Chinese leadership ever since Premier Chou En-lai died in January.

One day, the rumours will be truth, for there is no doubt at all of the Chinese Communist Party Chairman's growing frailty. There was even confirmation earlier this month from official sources in Peking that Mao had suffered a stroke in the unspecified past.

The latest report that Mao is dying came from London — but that is no surprise, for in the past such stories have come up nearly everywhere, only to be confounded by a new appearance by the Chinese leader.

News reports in the past month pointed out that photographs published recently by the Peking "People's Daily" show Mao to be in a progressively feeble condition. He has had two meetings recently with visiting statesmen: Robert Muldoon, New Zealand Prime Minister, and Lee Kwan-yew, Singapore Prime Minister. The latest picture of Mao's meeting with Lee appeared on May 12, showing the Chairman slumped with his head resting on the top of his chair.

THERE WAS a difference this time in Mao's talks with Muldoon and Lee. Both meetings, the one with Muldoon on April 30 and the other with Lee on May 11, were for only 15 minutes, in sharp contrast to the conversations Mao had with President Ford last December and with ex-President Nixon in February, both of which lasted one hour and 40 minutes.

Muldoon afterwards said in Hong-kong, "There is no doubt he is not healthy," and added that Mao was not smiling. But other sources close to Muldoon said the New Zealand Premier told his associates that he found Mao "largely incoherent," that his voice was weak, and the interpreter had to ask the Chairman to repeat himself several



CHIANG CHING

times to make sure of his meaning. The analysts are taking no bets on Mao's survival chances although it is becoming more and more evident that the Peking leadership is worried over his health.

THE MOST SERIOUS problem after Chou's death was that of succession. During 25 years, Chou never displayed any desire to seize power but was content to remain in Mao's shadow and serve as a buffer or conciliator in chaotic times. His death plunged Mao into a much more difficult situation and must lead the Peking regime to changes.

Chou is no longer there to serve as the convenient cushion in the present day inner party conflict. His death has caused deep discontent among the elements who were rooted out by Mao's cultural revolution, and has effectively ruled out any peaceful transfer of power to the so-called radical group headed by Mao's wife, Chiang Ching.

It is no wonder then that the radicals only last week launched a campaign to warn that the followers of Teng Hsiao-ping may have been defeated when he was

dismissed from the vice-premiership but that they continue to plot to regain power. Their assertion appeared in an unusual joint editorial in the Peking "People's Daily," which is the organ of the party, the theoretical journal "Red Flag," and, surprisingly enough, the "Liberation Army Daily." The occasion was the 10th anniversary of the start of the 1966-68 cultural revolution.

THE CULTURAL revolution was Mao's effort to destroy the power-holding bureaucratic establishment which had grown up within the Chinese Communist structure. It was obvious during the upheaval of that revolution that Mao's desire of attaining his form of Marxism could never be attained. And himself was forced to bring in the army to restore law and order when the Red Guards got out of control. To this day it is something of a mystery why the army didn't retain the power that came into their hands at that period. Perhaps, it was to do with the Lin Biao bid for power and his Soviet connections.

Even the radicals at the time knew that the bureaucracy was needed to run things on a day to day basis, so many were called back from disgrace. And it is admitted, as seen from the recent joint editorial, that these elements which are frequently termed "moderates" in the West (although they actually are no less rabid Communists than the Chiang Ching faction) represent a danger to Mme. Mao's strive for power.

Chiang Ching herself has elevated to top jobs many of her henchmen and their followers. But it is known that she is a concealed person detested by the older Communist Party elements, and not exactly admired even by those who have never been disgraced. Teng's fall is at least only a limited victory for Chiang Ching, and her failure to get one of her own men into the Prime Minister's chair shows which way the wind is blowing. This despite the fact that the faction is aggressive and disciplined and controls the mass media.

But the April 5 mob outbreak in Peking's Tien An Men Square can be a pointer to the kind of violence which could erupt in the coming battle for the chairmanship.

Rockefeller warns Italians about elections

WASHINGTON. — Vice President Nelson Rockefeller said in an interview released yesterday that if Communists enter the Italian government after the forthcoming parliamentary elections then Nato will have to make a "reappraisal."

In an interview with Marino de Medici, Washington correspondent of the Rome newspaper "Il Tempo," Rockefeller said he did not want to tell any other state or people what to do.

But questioned about the Italian elections on June 20 and the possibility that Communists will gain strength and enter the Rome government — a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization — for the first time since 1947, he said: "If there's a change, then, obviously... there has to be a reappraisal as to what should be done... It would result in our having to re-examine the relationship. Let's face it, the reason for Nato was a

common defence of the West against Communism.

"Personally, I would doubt that happening, but that's just an observation from one who is not in a position to have an opinion... Asked if it would not be in the interests of the United States to see an Italy well-run with Communist participation, Rockefeller said that the fate of Hungary and Czechoslovakia should be kept in mind. (UPI)

Soviet artists held after show

MOSCOW. — Leningrad Police yesterday detained a group of artists who tried to stage an open air show in defiance of a city council ban.

The wife of artist Igor Sinyavin, one of the organizers, said by telephone that she saw police detain seven artists as they arrived to set up the exhibition outside the walls of the Peter-and-Paul fortress.

The exhibition was to be dedicated to the memory of Yevgeny Rukhin, one of the Soviet Union's leading avant-garde artists, who died in a fire in his studio last Monday.

Mrs. Sinyavin said her husband had been held under virtual house arrest by police since the group announced they would go ahead with the show despite a ban by the city council's cultural board.

Originally 40 artists decided to take part but Mrs. Sinyavin said

only the seven who were detained turned up yesterday. Disident circles here suggested the other participants could have been prevented from leaving their homes.

Yevgeny Rukhin, 33, was a leading representative of the unofficial Soviet art movement which rejects the orthodox socialist realist style in favour of modernism. (Reuters)

British know-how for Iranian steelworks

TEHRAN. — The British Steel Corporation and the Iranian Steel Industries yesterday signed an agreement whereby British Steel will provide know-how worth "tens of millions in pounds sterling" to help Iran set up a \$1.6 billion steelworks.

Sir Montagu Finniston, chairman of British Steel said the steel-

works will be operational by 1980. (UPI)

French prestige slips after Lebanon offer

By ROBIN SMITH
PARIS. — President Giscard d'Estaing's proposal to send French troops to play a peace-keeping role in Lebanon has developed into an outside foreign policy fiasco that could hamper French diplomacy for a long time to come.

The French President's offer has now been rejected by almost every one concerned except the Christian forces in the Lebanese civil war, and the tone of much of the Arab reaction has been venomous. The French opposition is lashing the government, and those who sympathize with Giscard's aims are wondering how something intended to be a sober, tentative, humanitarian gesture could have been so badly mishandled.

Obviously Giscard's project has been badly distorted. The Elysee Palace spokesman points out that all the President ever had in mind was "a possible operation to consolidate a situation of peace for a limited period." But any proposition that unites against Israel and the Palestinians, and aligns Arab powers friendly to France — such as Egypt and Kuwait — with an antagonist like Algeria, has plainly been very badly conceived.

There are areas of uncomfortable silence in government circles. Supporters of Giscard wonder if he fully weighed the dangers to which 3,000 French soldiers would be exposed in the streets of Beirut if one of the two warring Lebanese armies decided to fire on the foreign troops holding them apart.

The trouble began when Giscard, on the last lap of his visit to the U.S., called a few French pressmen to his New Orleans hotel and told them that France was ready at 48 hours notice to send two or three regiments to police a cease-fire in Lebanon. The essential condition was

that the Lebanese authorities would have to invite the French in as the only way of stopping the slaughter.

Both the timing of Giscard's venture and the apparent lack of preparation were mystifying. Why did the President deliberately draw attention to his proposal just after his talks with President Ford and Secretary of State Kissinger, when the whole Arab world would say that France was acting as an American pawn? Why had preliminary soundings not given warning of how hostile the reaction would be? Were the French led astray by confidential messages of encouragement from the Syrians, which were not endorsed when the plan was made public?

One suggestion is that Giscard was beguiled by the informal atmosphere of American policymaking. He was constantly on view in

the U.S. and was repeatedly stating his views with considerable success. The atmosphere of freewheeling candour may have proved infectious too many.

Giscard had one domestic motive for making his disclosure when he did. The French National Assembly had been hotly debating his plans to pour money into France's conventional forces. Apart from their main defensive role, the armed forces are intended by Giscard for just such prestige missions as the Lebanese assignment.

Where Giscard did succeed — though it must be of small comfort to him now — was in driving a wedge among his more troublesome Gaullist followers.

Michael Debré, de Gaulle's former prime minister, had called for just such a Gaullist gesture in Lebanon, and applauded the statement from New Orleans. Other Gaullists, like Alexandre Sangunetti, the former secretary-general of the Gaullist UDR Party, accused Giscard of hatching plans that went far beyond the logistical ability of the French forces.

What is serious for France and Europe about the whole incident is its revelation of how close to the surface in the Arab world is suspicion of European motives. The Europeans — particularly France — are apt to take for granted that it is only the two super-powers whose evil intentions are feared in the Third World. Now France finds that memories of its protectorate in Lebanon after World War I are not the pleasant distant prospect that it likes to imagine.

Memories of European imperialism are still alive in the Middle East, and impetuous gestures are best avoided. The immediate problem for France is to restore the trust of the Arab powers which the Lebanese offer has shaken. (OFNS)

Philippines, USSR may establish ties

MOSCOW. — President Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines flew into the Siberian city of Novosibirsk yesterday on the first leg of a visit to the Soviet Union which is expected to culminate in the establishment of relations between the two countries.

Marcos, who is due in Moscow today, is the first president of the island nation to visit the Soviet Union. The Philippines is the last major Southeast Asian country which does not have formal ties with Moscow.

Because of this and the fact that the Philippines is a staunch anti-Communist nation, the Soviet leadership is likely to attach special significance to this visit.

VISIT. — Austrian President Rudolf Kirchschlager arrived in Tehran yesterday afternoon for a five-day state visit to discuss Austria-Iran relations and exchange views on world affairs, officials said.

BASEBALL

U.S. baseball results and standings after Saturday's games:

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	24	15	.615	—
Baltimore	22	18	.550	2½
Cleveland	19	20	.487	5
Boston	18	21	.462	6
Milwaukee	15	19	.441	6½
Detroit	16	22	.421	7½

WEST				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
ansas City	24	16	.590	—
exas	24	16	.590	—
Minnesota	20	20	.500	4

Saturday's games: Cincinnati 6, Los Angeles 5; Chicago 4, Pittsburgh 1; Houston 4, Atlanta 3; Philadelphia 6, Montreal 1; St. Louis 3, New York 2, 10 innings; San Diego 4, San Francisco 0.

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THE JERUSALEM POST

Announcement to advertisers in our classified columns

Because of the Shavuot holiday and holiday eve, deadlines for classified advertisements for our weekend edition appearing on Thursday, June 3, and for next Sunday's edition, June 6 will be advanced by one day.

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A THICK SWARM of aircraft is descending on Vancouver, bearing delegates to the latest, greatest United Nations conference, code-named: Habitat. The conference, which opens today and will run for two weeks, is a gathering to discuss strategies to cope with what is happening to the world's cities.

In rich nations or poor, what is happening to the cities is more than just alarming. In the poorer world, the cities are experiencing the largest movement of humanity on record. A flood of migrants is swelling the shanty towns that encircle the Third World cities — the favelas of Brazil, the rancho of Venezuela, the barriada of Peru and the shanty of Lagos.

The Habitat conference will be told that the developing nations, to shelter their new urban populations, will need to build a mind-boggling number of new houses and workplaces. This amazing quantity must be enough to equal the entire construction of buildings in Europe, Japan and North America in the last two centuries. And the developing nations will have to do all this in the next 20 years.

If they fail, the human prospect is that a vast section of the world's people will be condemned to live in societies so far from what they will simply be irredeemable, many experts believe, except by "population crash." People get hurt in population crashes.

In the wealthier nations, the ill of the cities are of a different nature but still highly disturbing. The threat in many nations is of megalopolis. The trouble with a megalopolis is

Seeking ways to cope with the rush to the cities

By JEREMY BUGLER
VANCOUVER

that it is profligate with resources and energy, it exhausts its people in making them travel huge distances from work to home and back. It has decaying centres where crime breeds, and it gobbles up land needed for food production and recreation.

WHAT ON EARTH can be done about problems on this scale? The United Nations staff organising the conference seem commendably undaunted. They insist the conference will deal with specific, workable approaches to problems. Above all, it will prod governments into planning now for the city tomorrow.

A number of high-powered experts, from Barbara Ward to Margaret Mead, are expected to be in Vancouver to provide the intellectual distinction that all good conferences need. Inescapably, though, Habitat will also be the scene of some in-fighting by differing groups and ideologies. A struggle, for exam-

ple, may take place between two groups being identified as "urbanists" and "ruralists."

The urbanists argue that little or nothing can or should be done to stop the drift to the cities. They say that indeed the new migrants tend to be among the most enterprising people of a society. They contend that what governments around the world have to do is pour resources into those cities to make them habitable.

The ruralists, on the other hand, say that the real problem lies in the countryside. They cite Tanzania and China as places where it has been shown that the drift to the city slum is not inevitable.

Another tangle is expected between those who believe the housing problem in the cities and towns can be solved by big government programmes, and those who believe that it can only be tackled by harnessing the self-help qualities of the squatters. The tide seems to be turning towards self-help.

At the end of its discussions, Habitat will be judged on two levels. It will be judged to see whether simple but dramatic improvements that are quite attainable have been got across. On the second level, Habitat will be judged on whether it has been able to break the bonds of prejudice. It will have before it resolutions which stress that many housing and urban problems can only be solved by the public ownership of land, or by public control of development. In parts of the world like Latin America, such talk has always been tainted with Communism. Perhaps Habitat will make such proposals respectable. (Ofna)

Looking at the new bags

By JOANNA YEHIEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter

WE MAY GO barefoot, without make-up, bathe in the nude down in Nueba, or rarely depart from our T-shirt and jeans, but the one item of fashion we're virtually never without is our handbag. So much is it a part of ourselves, that we often ignore it until it falls apart — or a friend buys a new one and we take a look at our own old misshapen object and decide it's time to do the same.

If you're in that kind of a mood, Mini exclusive boutique in Tel Aviv's Hod Passage off Rehov Dizengoff last week showed its spring and summer fashion bags to the press, and among these Italian imported or locally made bags, there may be one for you.

Mini is selling three very different kinds of handbags this summer — some sporty canvas bound with leather "military" bags; some imported Italian-made jacquard bags decorated with leather; and a line of Italian-made straw bags bound with leather or silk in various shapes and colours, to go with fashion's "natural" look.

The canvas and leather "army" bags come in three different shapes, ranging from the large tote bag, for shopping or beach, a pouchy shoulder or hand-held bag, zip



Bagha's line of woven straw handbags.

(Ben-Ami)

fastened, or a true army-style pocket-book bag, with various compartments inside, to be worn over the shoulder. All these bags are washable, and cost from IL250 to IL350.

The "jacquard" bags, designed by Bagha, and made by Zenthi of Italy, also come in a great variety of shapes and sizes. Attention is placed primarily on the leather designs on the outside in various shades of brown, and the gold-coloured fastenings. These bags are "sporty-elegant," of a go-anywhere, do-anything type, and most are roomy enough to satisfy even the most carry-her-whole-wardrobe-along-

with-her type.

Most appealing personally (and cheapest, too), are the bags of woven straw, in which the leather binding comes in various colours to surround the natural colour of the straw itself. These bags are in all kinds of shapes from totes to envelope clutches. They cost from IL150 for the clutch bags bound in silk to IL300 for the same bound in leather. All made by Bagha of Florence.

Mini are also showing a range of elegant evening bags in crocodile, some leather uni-sex bags for him or her (from IL500 to IL600!) and a range of accessories such as wallets and key-holders.

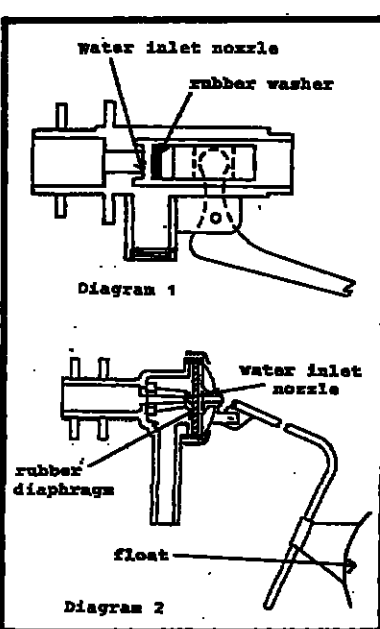
DO IT YOURSELF / MEIR FACTOR

IN OUR FLAT we were originally provided with a low level plastic toilet cistern having the ballcock system shown in diagram 1. To flush the toilet, you had to press down on a small bar set in the side of the lid. Due to the gradual accumulation of a lime deposit on the bar it would usually stick after depressing it and the toilet would continue flushing. Eventually, exasperated by this waste of water and fed-up with replacing the brass nozzle which was very prone to corrosion, I decided to replace the complete cistern.

I bought a plastic cistern made by Ma'agen Michael, operated by a sensible handle, and having a far superior ballcock (diagram 2), consisting of a large rubber diaphragm which is pressed up against the water inlet nozzle by the action of the float lever. In some eighteen months of use I have had no trouble with the ballcock mechanism which, being made completely of plastic (except for the rubber diaphragm) is corrosion free.

I first shut off the water inlet tap to the old cistern and flushed the cistern to empty it. With an adjustable wrench I disconnected the brass nut connecting the inlet water supply to the cistern. Next, by hand I opened the large plastic collar securing the down-pipe from the cistern to the W.C. pan. All that remained to do was to unhook the cistern from the plastic strip holding it to the wall and unscrew the strip from the wall. I removed the plastic down-pipe by cutting through the rubber sealing ring with a sharp knife.

The new cistern had a hole on each



Replacing a cistern

side so that the ballcock can be fitted on either side, the other hole being blocked off with a plastic plug. When you change over the side of the ballcock you also have to turn the plastic float around. Having ensured that the ballcock was on the required side, I connected the wide down-pipe to the underside of the cistern and

stuck the lower bent end into the porcelain socket of the W.C. pan.

I found I had to cut off a few centimetres from the lower end of the pipe as it projected too far into the W.C. pan. I used a hacksaw to cut the pipe, smoothing over the ragged edges with a piece of steel wool. I could now mark the position of the holes for the supporting screws. I then removed the cistern, drilled the two holes using a 6mm masonry bit, plugged the holes with 1" long green plastic wall plugs, and fastened the cistern with the hexagonal headed screws supplied. These screws also have a slot for a screwdriver, but I found it much easier to use a small ratchet socket spanner to tighten them.

I then liberally applied liquid soap to the inside of the large rubber ring, slid it over the lower end of the plastic down-pipe, and turned the wide ring inside out over on itself. This enabled me to insert the end of the pipe covered by the small part of the ring, and then spring the larger part of the ring over the porcelain flange. I was then able to tighten up the pipe to the cistern by screwing the large plastic nut up by hand. As an added precaution to prevent leaking from the rubber joint, I wound a few turns of wire around the rubber and tightened up with a pair of pliers.

I then reconnected the water input to the cistern, opened the stop tap and allowed the cistern to fill. The water level in the cistern I was able to adjust by turning a plastic knurled wheel which regulates the height the float can rise.

'O Jerusalem' luxury tour for the rich

By GEORGE LEONOF

IT'S BEING widely promoted in the U.S. as "the most unusual tour of the city in 40 centuries," and the city's Mayor Teddy Kolek is advising American travel agents, in a printed circular, that "I fully agree with that description."

Billed as the "O Jerusalem!" tour, the project has been in the works for almost two years, sired by Eli Al and nurtured at various intensities over the past two years by the Ministry for Tourism and the Jerusalem Municipality. It is finally coming off the production line at the rate of about eight departures a week from New York — in ten-day or two-week packages.

What makes it so unusual, in the

eyes of the promoters, is the comprehensive one-week sojourn in Jerusalem during which the emphasis will be as much on its people as on its traditional historic attractions. It was not tailored specifically with a view to the American Jewish market, but that is where it seems fated to do best, although it will include special features for the year-end Christian holidays.

Studying the itinerary are visits to the homes of new immigrants and veteran settlers, including the more exotic Oriental communities originating from Bukhara, Kurdistan and Yemen; guided tours to excavations still not completely open to the public, receptions by Beduin

sheikhs, and visits to Gush Etzion and Kiryat Arba, the Jewish settlement in Hebron.

A broad gamut of cultural activity includes a full Hebrew lesson in one of Jerusalem's *upstims* and a *piece de resistance* in the form of a dinner hosted by Mayor Kolek.

Lasting into mid-March, "O Jerusalem!" is one of the most ambitious luxury packages ever marketed by Israel. Accommodation is nothing less than five-star (the Hilton and Plaza hotels in both Jerusalem and Tel Aviv). Current price of the 10-day package on a bed-breakfast basis is \$1,059 (two weeks — \$1,125), but this changes to the peak season price of \$1,195 (\$1,275) the first week in June.

Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, Uri Segal conducting, Vladimir Ashkenazy, piano (Bayerische Ra'omah, Jerusalem-May 27). Mozart: Piano Concerto No. 17, in G Major, K. 453; Mahler: Symphony No. 6, in A minor.

MOZART'S Concerto is most of them so intimate in texture and character that they are apt to lose some of their impact on the listener in huge, modern halls. With Vladimir Ashkenazy's delicate approach and self-effacing stage manner, the danger becomes real. But such is his musicianship that one was able to enjoy the dream-like quality of his phrases, the perfect balance in the dialogues with the orchestra (which Uri Segal kept

judiciously down to level), his sense for the right tempi and the impeccable fluency of his technical resources. It was not a virtuoso performance — the Concerto in G does not permit showiness anyway — but it was a musician's act of devotion to music and all its beauty.

Uri Segal gave a most convincing reading of Mahler's Sixth Symphony, showing himself a spirited leader from beginning to the end. The performance was

remarkably fresh and lively, despite the fact that Segal's version is eight minutes longer than, for example, Kubelik's recording on DGG. The biggest difference in time was in the Andante, which Segal drew out more than the rather thin musical could bear. As so often with Mahler, the last twenty minutes seemed never-ending, and not even the conductor's untiring efforts could make it appear any shorter. But it was an impressively strong performance, and Uri Segal gave a convincing demonstration of his gifts as a conductor, overriding any previously held reservations.

YOHANAN BOEHM

Haifa leads in race to first artificial liver

By Joan Borsten / Special to The Jerusalem Post



Steve Gaffin consults with colleagues at the Abba Khoushy Medical School (Passow)

STEVE GAFFIN, senior lecturer at Haifa's Abba Khoushy Medical School, works in a small cubbyhole of an office, which is crowded with desks, chairs, and a mini-research laboratory full of dangling plastic tubes and highly specialised machines. In the narrow corridor beyond, telephones ring and students run back and forth dodging pieces of oversized equipment which apparently don't fit elsewhere.

Somehow you would expect a more impressive and scholarly looking set-up from an American biophysicist with a Ph.D. from New York's Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

"But this is a brand new medical school," explains Gaffin, who did post-graduate work at the University of California Medical Centre, and who was a senior research fellow at the Weizmann Institute. "While departments have very high calibre personnel, we lack room (the present building is old and the new one won't be finished for a few years) and we are still raising money for important pieces of equipment needed for research and teaching (Gaffin has several times solicited contributions from personal friends in the States to buy needed apparatus to which he affixes a UJA-style donors plaque)."

Gaffin's speciality is the chemistry of muscles, a field he describes as the most popular in biophysics after DNA and RNA. His luck, he says, is that he ended up at a medical school connected to the Technion, a scientific-technological university, instead of to a liberal arts school. Aided by the Technion faculty, Gaffin moved into a whole new area of biophysics and is using his expertise to solve important medical problems.

At present, Gaffin is trying to produce an "artificial liver," slated to be an international first. Although the working model will not be tested for several more weeks, Gaffin agreed to disclose some facts about his project.

"One function of the liver is removing poisons from the bloodstream," he explains. "When the liver fails or when the liver is damaged, the poisons accumulate, eventually leading to death. Likewise, blood poisoning occurs when bacteria grow faster than the liver can handle. An 'artificial liver' is the term used for a process that I hope will provide doctors with a new method of removing specific poisons from the blood (there are numerous types) and make the difference

between life and death for many patients.

"Perhaps Israelis are already familiar with the artificial kidney (haemo dialysis). Several times a week blood is taken from the artery through a tube and passed through a

cheaper, simpler, and easier. It also will not involve transplant."

GAFFIN BEGAN working on this project while still at the Weizmann Institute. There he was approached by Dr. Jacob Fine, former chairman of Harvard Medical School's Department of Surgery, and a member of the Weizmann Board of Governors. Fine was looking for someone with a chemical background to improve a new test for bacterial poisons which cause shock. Gaffin did the research and then came up with a way, using this same test, to remove poisons from the blood. This led to the idea of modifying the principle for any poison.

"Much of my money for chemicals and equipment came from friends," Gaffin says, "and through Dr. Fine, who sent me free samples worth thousands of dollars. Once the process has been tested, it will be used experimentally and then on patients in Boston-area hospitals."

Gaffin's first working, artificial liver will remove endotoxins from the blood stream. This is the poison which endangers the lives of wounded soldiers and accident victims. Once this instrument is perfected, Gaffin predicts that all succeeding variations (for different types of poisons) will be easy to develop.

Married to an Israeli and the father of a two-year-old son, Gaffin is known for his humorous anecdotes, easy-going ways, and inability to learn Hebrew. He spends much of his leisure time combing Israeli archaeological ruins for ancient coins ("I had to give up sailing when I immigrated, but the digs here make up for it"), plays the guitar, skin dives, skis and has a Brownie in judo.

"I like being an Israeli biophysicist," says Gaffin, "although it has its drawbacks. When I first immigrated, for instance, I brought with me a new invention, a laboratory device for purifying proteins. I wanted Israel to produce and market my find, bringing in much-needed foreign currency. Unfortunately, the quality of our workmanship is not on par with America's, and my product's commercial appeal was adversely affected."

"There are, of course, pluses. In the U.S., most of those in my profession are involved in pure research. Here, the emphasis is more on inventing new processes, like the 'artificial liver,' for medicine and science. It's important to me that my ideas are tuned into something practical and useful."

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J. Voet / Special to The Jerusalem Post

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The General Index fell yesterday by 0.46 per cent to stand at 128.84 points.

'AVIATION WEEK' REPORTS

IDF seeks to rearm Phantoms

The economy

The ministry also wants to exercise tight controls over possible third party sales of the projected system or its derivatives so that Israel government approval would be mandatory should the system subsequently be sought by another country, "Aviation Week" says. "This step is thought to be prompted by Israeli bitterness over U.S. government attempts to include the Lear-

Meanwhile, "Aviation Week" also reports that the ministry last week approved funding for the first demonstration outside Israel of the Kfir jet fighter at the British Farnborough Air Show opening on September 5. Permission is supposed to have involved intense internal lobbying by both IAI and the Israeli Air Force to get the Kfir an export-oriented showing before the Paris Air Show next year.

The economy—malaise or symptom

The disruptive impact of this erosion is visible in all walks of life. It is perhaps most conspicuous in the capital market, where lack of confidence in the administration's competence is expressed in massive

Obviously, such a mood cannot but have a devastating impact on national saving. Israel's capital market, which used to channel spare private funds to public programmes, is operating in reverse. In the first four months of 1975

Thus irreparable damage is done to our social fabric even while we still have enough resources to carry on. And this process will not be checked even if U.S. aid is doubled. Of late American statesmen have accused their administration of Vietnam-like policies concerning this country. But let us remember that Vietnam's collapse has been caused primarily by its internal disintegration, by its inability to put its house in order in spite of the huge American — military and civil — aid.

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Anoria	r	— 102
Israel- Israel Ltd	r	274 273
Int. Land Dev.	b	113 113.5
Solei Boneh-10% pref.	b	139 139
Property & Building	r	135 135
Mohadrin	r	182 182
L.C.P. Citrus	r	357 353.5
Anglo-Int. Investors	r	118.5 118.5
Neot Ariv	r	228 228
Pr. Of Ariz.	r	185 186
Rasoco - 5% pref.	r	236.5 236.5
Rasco	r	115.5 115.5
	r	80.5 79
INDUSTRIAL		
Alliance - P		584 590
Elco -	r	168.5 167.5
Electra - 5	r	245 242.5
Argaman - 5%	r	264.5 264.5
As - C	r	145 143.5
Dubek	r	426 424
Elct. Wire & Cable	b	111 110
Elco -	r	808 809
Chem. & Phosphates	r	160 149
Lewin Npa.	r	102.5 101.5
Indust. Textile	r	152.5 150.5
Phenolic - 8%	r	105 105
Paper Mills	r	370 270.5
Asia Tr.	r	200 206
Chem. Substan - 5% pref.	r	435 438
Shemen - 5% pref.	r	142 143
Real Rywood	b	108 107
INVESTMENT & HOLDING COMPANIES		
Elco -	b	134.5 135
Elkora	r	178 179
Israel Central Trade	b	245 245
Capozim	r	207 207
Discount	b	247 247
Wolfson - Ltd	b	88 84.5
Lamps	r	138 135
Discount	r	203.5 203.5
United Alkali	b	160.5 160.5
Leumi	r	161.5 163
Elzyer	r	261 265
Elzuta	r	92 88.5
Export	b	106.5 104.5
Elzuta	r	261 265
El Industries	r	128 130
FUEL & OIL		
Neptun OTC	r	486 480
Capozim OTC	r	770 778
Liquid Petroleum	r	532 540
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Tackling the Triangle's agricultural problems

By Lea Levavi / Jerusalem Post Reporter

In Kalansawe, we visited one successful carnation grower who had achieved a yield of 165,000 carnations from one dunam this year (a very good yield) and has now received permission to plant a second dunam. As we arrived, he was driving stakes into the ground to prepare his second dunam for planting. "Agriculture is like playing cards," he said. "You can be lucky

do not mean, of course, that farmers cannot devote part of their land (particularly the part not suitable for those crops which the Ministry is pushing at any given time) to growing fruit and vegetables of their own choice for themselves or for the local market. The madrasa men willingly give advice on such projects when asked, but financial aid is usually not available from Ministry sources.

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בנק אגוד
בנק אגוד - זה מודיר

Charter prospects

THE TURBULENT charter debate has finally come to an end. Last Friday the ministerial committee appointed to deal with the matter announced a set of clear-cut regulations governing charter flights to Israel. These embody a policy of cautious liberalization that falls short of what was deemed desirable by the Heth Committee, even as watered down by the Cabinet. But it is designed for a three-year experimental period, which should provide those responsible for the development of the country's tourism industry with firm enough conclusions for future action.

The diametrically opposed views of the Tourism and Transport ministries have thus been reconciled, at least on paper. Now it has to be shown that the representatives of the two ministries can make their consensus serve as the basis of their ongoing work in the ministerial charter committee, which is now to see to it that charters are given a fair chance.

It will be the more particular task of the Tourism Ministry, which now for the first time has a say in the formulation and implementation of aviation policy, to demonstrate that it knows how to wield this newly-acquired authority, which it has long sought to share with the Transport Ministry.

The regulations require that El Al not only be given a fair share of any proposed charter operations, but first choice in implementing any charter business on a strictly competitive basis. This is a national airline's reasonable prerogative, always provided that it undertakes to match the best bid submitted by a foreign operator.

There have been reports that the Transport Ministry's Civil Aviation Department has not been as helpful as it might have been in processing applications for charter operations. The reports may be exaggerated, perhaps even baseless, but there has been a disheartening reluctance on the part of the Department to make public its official position. Now there should be no question as to what its position is in practice.

The charters committee might do well to make its first important decision on the question of student and youth traffic from North America. It has decided against the Heth recommendations to allow charter flights in these categories, basing its decision on the Transport Ministry's assurance that El Al was about to offer fare levels which would make charters unnecessary.

Last year, the high cost of travel considerably reduced this traffic, the importance of which to Israel far transcends the economic aspect. It is obviously of some importance that young people should fly to Israel on its own national airline, but it is certainly of equal concern that they should not be prevented from coming by the high cost of travel.

Welcome Europeans

ISRAEL OPENS its doors today to the agricultural committee of the Council of Europe, which is holding, at the Knesset building in Jerusalem, its first session ever outside the Continent.

This country's lack of amicable links with its immediate neighbours has given it a special interest in seeking the closest ties with the States of Europe and with their multi-national organizations. Our trading frontiers may be said to have shifted over to Europe as a result of the unrelenting economic boycott practised by the Arab countries against Israel.

In the consciousness of Israelis, it is the Common Market which has loomed largest among European organizations. The agreement recently concluded with the Mart will no doubt have a significant role in shaping the future of this country's economy. But it is worth bearing in mind that the widest political aspect of Continental unity is represented by the 18-nation Council of Europe. The Council has traditionally given a sympathetic hearing to Israel's arguments, and has on several occasions invited Israel leaders to address it in person.

In 1959, the Knesset, alone among non-member parliaments, was asked to send a delegation to the Council of Europe, with observer status, and since then Knesset Members have been regular participants. This has facilitated direct, personal contact with leading European parliamentarians who play an important role in the formation of their respective governments' domestic and foreign policies.

The present visit of the Council's agriculture committee should lend increased vitality to such contacts. The participants in the committee's deliberations will, it is to be hoped, also find the occasion suitable to meet with Israeli agriculturists, and thus to learn first-hand about the efforts exerted to raise farming here to its strikingly high levels, to achieve constant improvements in product quality, and to elevate the standard of living of the population on the land.

At a time when the Arab campaign of incitement against Israel in many international organizations is at its peak, the European visitors must surely also be happy to see for themselves the impressive record of yields obtained by Arab farmers here, and the progress made in their living conditions over the past years.

The Israeli officials who have been handling requests for arms and financial aid from the U.S. have had a rude awakening. They assumed all along that once the arms list was approved, the money to pay for them would follow as a matter of course. But that has not proved to be the case. WOLF BLITZER reports.

U.S. aid—a rude awakening

IN THE BEGINNING, the Ford Administration was supposed to submit its recommendations for a fiscal 1976 Foreign Aid Bill to the Congress in the spring of 1975. But the breakdown of Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's "shuttle diplomacy" at the end of March led to a "reassessment" of U.S. policy in the Middle East, and the Foreign Aid Bill was postponed.

While the highly-touted "re-assessment" may have been initiated as a serious effort to redefine U.S. policy, it quickly turned into nothing more than a device to exert pressure on Israel to make the concessions necessary for Kissinger to pull off another diplomatic coup.

With the reassessment hanging over Israel's head, together with the postponement of vital foreign assistance and an embargo on new arms contracts, Israeli officials reluctantly concluded last summer that Arab-Israeli negotiations are really part of a "three-way street," meaning that if Arab concessions fell short of Israel's demands, Israel could be compensated by increased U.S. support, especially in the financial and military sectors.

So the Foreign Aid Bill was put off for many months. After the signing of the Sinai accord on September 1, the Administration wanted to wait a few more weeks so that the new bill, which included about \$2.3 billion for Israel and \$750 million for Egypt, would not appear as a pay-off for the Sinai agreement. (Israel and the U.S. had reached agreement in July on the approximate level of aid, that being the catalyst that led to diplomatic victory in September.)

With the submission of the bill to the Congress, Israeli leaders were confident that the matter would be quickly dealt with and that the need-

ed assistance would finally be allocated for Israel.

Yet now, more than seven months and many Congressional committee hearings later, Israel is still being kept waiting for the aid. Israeli officials who have been taking the money for granted are no longer boasting.

The fiscal 1976 Foreign Aid Authorization and Appropriation Bills—under U.S. law two separate measures are needed for the money to be allocated—are still pending in the Congress. Final approval is now being hoped for sometime before the end of June, when large-scale Israeli payments for arms already purchased are due. Nervously, Israeli officials are hoping that the Congress and the President can finally manage to agree on a bill.

THE PRESIDENT'S veto earlier this month of the original 1976 Authorization Bill, albeit for reasons not directly connected with Israel, has nevertheless had the effect of hurting Israel. The bill is now being revised, and many of the provisions that the President opposed will be deleted.

Because of the veto and the new Congressional budget regulations affecting the fiscal 1976 Authorization Bill, the Congress has combined the two measures into one new bill, which includes some \$4.5 billion in economic and military grants and loans for Israel. This Authorization Bill must be approved before the Congress completes action on the pending fiscal 1976 Appropriation Bill.

For Israel's friends in Washington, this matter has taken on the utmost urgency. It will be extremely difficult for Israel to meet its payments next month without the funds included in the aid bill. Experts say that for

the bill to become law by the end of June will be difficult, but not impossible.

President Ford's threat to veto the Appropriation Bill if it includes \$550m. for Israel in transitional quarter funding—the Authorization Bill already contains this sum—will be quickly resolved, Administration and Congressional sources believe.

WHATEVER the outcome, some Israeli officials are beginning to take a closer look at the aid problem, in an attempt to draw some preliminary lessons.

First, just because the Administration recommends high aid levels, that does not automatically mean that the Congress will go along with the exact request—even for Israel, the most popular foreign aid recipient.

Second, if the President opposes Congressional provisions attached to a foreign aid bill, he will veto the entire package despite the Executive branch's interest in allocating foreign aid. President Ford's veto of the Authorization Bill stunned Israel and its supporters here.

Third, just because the Administration approves arms contracts for Israel, that does not mean that the U.S. will also finance the transaction. The view that it did mean that was popularized in Israel by Prime Minister Rabin and other Israeli leaders in the past few months, but American officials maintain that it is not based on fact. It has been a rude awakening for Israel.

Now, until the Foreign Aid Bills become law, there is a delay in delivering arms already agreed on. This explains the recent report from Israel that an important military delegation has postponed its scheduled mission to the U.S. until after the Foreign Aid Bill is passed.

READERS' LETTERS

FREE SPEECH ON CAMPUS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
Sir, The Jerusalem Post of May 23 quotes "leaders of the Hebrew University student union" who blame the recent campus violence on the laxity of the university in not "disciplining Arab students for failing to do their share of guard duty, for removal of memorial candles for Holocaust victims and the fallen of Israel's wars, and for painting swastikas on dormitory walls." The latter two incidents have never been proven to have been perpetrated by any student, Arab or not. As for the guarding issue, it is to the university's credit that it reached a compromise respecting the Arabs' problem of conscience (as does the State of Israel by not drafting Arabs into the army) while these same "student leaders" pushed a hard and unyielding line.

The picture painted by these "student leaders" is one of anti-Semitic persecution and desecration of Jewish honour on campus. In fact, last week's riot on campus, instigated by Jewish troublemakers, was an attempt to muzzle legitimate free speech by Israeli citizens utilizing their full civil rights. The sentiments of those who organized the Jewish counter-demonstration were summed up by Meir Kahane, interviewed at the scene of the riot: "The Arabs should realize that this (the university or Israel, I'm not sure) isn't the place for them."

What a far cry from that bastion of intellectual freedom and honesty we were taught the university should be!

JEREMY MILGROM
Jerusalem.

CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
Sir, — In "Jerusalem Religious Council" (May 16), Mr. Uri Huppert of the Independent Liberal Party claims that the ILP "speaks for Reform and Conservative Jews." As Chairman of the Public Relations Committee of the United Synagogue of Israel (Conservative), I would like to make our position clear on this point: Neither the ILP or any other group has been authorized to speak for our movement, nor are we affiliated with any political party or faction. While we welcome the support the ILP and other parties have given us concerning such questions as discrimination against our congregations and rabbis, this does not

entitle these organizations to suggest that we sympathize with their political programmes or to claim that they, in any way, represent our movement.

As regards the local Religious Councils, the United Synagogue has long felt that, as presently constituted and appointed, these bodies are not capable of being responsive to the religious needs of the great majority of the Jewish community. We have therefore taken the position that our movement will not supply lists of candidates to any political party.

E. HOENREICH
"havot."

CHRISTIAN VIEW

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
Sir, — I have just returned from a tour of duty lecturing in the United States where I found at the grass roots level much understanding and sympathy for Israel's problems. On my return to Jerusalem, I hear from a number of Christian quarters throughout the country little but criticism for Israel's conduct during the very difficult days since the start of the Arab riots two months ago. I am shocked at the shallowness of historical perspective of some of my

co-religionists and their critical attitudes and wish to say to my Israeli friends: "Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed; for the Lord God is with thee whithersoever thou goest" (Joshua 1:9) — and to my Christian co-religionists: "I will bless thee" (Genesis 12:3).
THE REV. DR. G. DOUGLAS YOUNG
President, American Institute of Holy Land Studies
Jerusalem

ENTHUSIASTIC TOURISTS

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post
Sir, — We have just concluded our fourth visit to Israel since our first stay during the Yom Kippur War. Thanks to the hospitality of your people, we have become well acquainted and engrossed with their problems, more than with those of any other country in the world.

We want to thank the many people who have met during our visits and who are rendering a great service to their country by making it so easy to establish contacts. In particular, we wish to thank an organization which, in a selfless manner and on a completely voluntary basis does so much to help tourists — namely the Voluntary Tourist Service of Israel.

The women of this organization make it their job to enable the tourist to acquire a better understanding of Israel. They offer free assistance in many fields, arrange visits with Israeli families on request, take care of sick tourists, etc. We personally found this organization admirable and typical of Israel.

HELLMUT JUST, Judge
BARBARA JUST,
Dahleim, District Attorney
Mannheim, Germany.

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POSTSCRIPT

Jousting with King Arthur

NOWADAYS, apparently, you can debunk anything if you set your mind to it, even a legend.

The latest victim is Britain's King Arthur. The story of the great king, his Knights of the Round Table and the Isle of Avalon has now been labelled a 12th century publicity stunt.

The official historian of Somerset, Dr. Robert Dunning, has published a book on the history of Christianity in that county suggesting that the monks of Glastonbury dreamed up the story in order to raise funds to rebuild their Abbey after it was burned down in 1174. Henry II, the historian claims, had given money but his successor, Richard Coeur de Lion stopped the contributions as he needed funds himself for the Third Crusade.

"What better means of publicity, for Glastonbury's flagging building fund than to identify it with Avalon... The monks of Glastonbury between them created a legend which has gripped the imagination since the 12th century," AP reports Dr. Dunning as writing.

Alas, poor Arthur, poor Malory and poor Tennyson! No Camelot? Oh Lancelot, Guinevere and Galahad!

F.D.

THE SHRINE of the Virgin Mary in the Portuguese village of Fatima is one of the most famous, though one of the youngest, in the Catholic world.

The miracle which made Fatima famous took place in May 1917, when the Virgin is said to have appeared to three shepherd children. Two of them died within three years of the reported apparition, but the third, Lucia, now 69, lives at a Carmelite convent in Coimbra. Testimony is

being taken for their beatification, the first step towards canonization. However, AP reports that since the revolution the pilgrimage to Fatima has become more difficult and costly. Petrol has more than doubled in price and the hotels in Fatima are filled with "retornados," the homeless refugees from Portugal's former colonies.

There is a rumour going round Fatima nowadays that Arab oil sheikhs have announced a plan to build a mosque there. Fatima is an old Moorish town only a few miles away from Ourique, where the Moors were defeated in battle in 1139 and ousted from Portugal which they had ruled for three centuries. The town may have been named in honour of the Prophet Mohammed's favourite daughter.

A READER who noticed an item in this column about the traffic sign in Heidelberg which reads: "Caution! Musicians Crossing" has written to tell us about a notice in Skane, a small town in Sweden.

The road-sign there reads: "Caution — Geese Crossing."

Apparently goose-raising is one of the town's main occupations and drivers are expected to slow down, if not stop, if they find the creatures trying to waddle across the road. The place is also famous for the best roast goose in Sweden and people travel miles to taste it.

If you are going abroad this summer, if goose is your favourite dish and you think your foreign currency allocation will take you as far and allow you to buy a meal, why not put Skane on your itinerary, our reader suggests.

G.G.L.



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